

# The History of Alquerque-12 Remaining countries Volume II.



Govert Westerveld











# The History of Alquerque-12



## Remaining countries Volume II

Govert Westerveld  
2015

**The History of Alquerque-12. Remaining countries.  
Volume II.**



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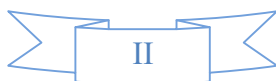
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**The History of Alquerque-12. Remaining countries.  
Volume II.**

# **The History of Alquerque-12**



## **Remaining countries Volume II**

**Govert Westerveld  
2015**



## **DEDICATION**

**I dedicate this work to Mr. Joaquín Salmerón,  
Director of the Museum Siyasa of Cieza (Murcia) in  
Spain.**

**Thanks to his enthusiasm and generous help I could  
initiate the investigation of the Alquerque-12 game in  
Spain.**



**The History of Alquerque-12. Remaining countries.  
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## **FOREWORD**

Years ago I looked around in the Ricote Valley for alquerque-12 drawings. The Ricote Valley has always been a chance for me to relax, unwind, and escape the stress of everyday life. The pressures of commuting and family obligations cause many of us living life in a constant hurry, resorting to fast food before collapsing in front of the television in the evening. For my research I feel the need to escape and get away from it all at times. The Ricote Valley has become a part of my life where I have the freedom to slow down, get away from technology overload, and take real pleasure in the basics of life.

For several years I was not successful with my research in the Ricote Valley. This situation suddenly changed when I met the archaeologist Joaquín Salmeron, director of the Siyasa Museum at Cieza of the province of Murcia in Spain. Cieza is located only 5km from the Ricote Valley.

With great enthusiasm and pride Mr. Salmeron showed me the different Alquerque boards they had found in the Moorish settlement known as Siyasa of the XIII century. Among them I quickly found two Alquerque-12 drawings. That day I felt to be the luckiest man in Spain because suddenly all my research efforts were rewarded with the desired results.



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The Alquerque-12 game is the precursor of the game of draughts or checker that is called in Spanish the "Juego de las Damas". I have for many years studied the history of the draughts game that I considered being a Spanish invention around 1495 in the town of Valencia.

Apart from that I considered that the new powerful Dama (French: Dame) in the game of chess and draughts was nothing else than a representation of Isabelle of Castile (Isabel la Católica) on the chess and draughts board<sup>1</sup>. Today most historians agree with that, but the Dutch draughts researcher Dr. Arie van der Stoep does not agree with that due to etymological findings. According to him the draughts game is an invention of France. He is applying the same opinion to the Alquerque-12 game. According to his knowledge it was a very popular game in France before the XVI century. He furthermore stated that players used a dama in the Alquerque-12 game, although this rule was not mentioned in the book of Alfonso X The Wise (1283). Dr. Van der Stoep came to this conclusion after having played the game on a computer.

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<sup>1</sup> **WESTERVELD, Govert** (1987) International Dama News; From Spain; In: Dutch Draughts Magazine "Het Nieuwe Damspel", Number 3, July-September, p.71

**WESTERVELD, Govert** (1990) Ciencia sobre un tablero", Editor: PPU S.A., ISBN 84-7665-697-1 (With the collaboration of Florentina Navarro Belmonte)

**WESTERVELD, Govert** (1994) Historia de la nueva dama poderosa en el juego de Ajedrez y Damas. (History of the new powerful Queen in the game of chess and draughts), pages 103-225 Homo Ludens: Der spielende Mensch IV, Internationale Beiträge des Institutes für Spielforschung und Spielpädagogik an der Hochschule "Mozarteum" - Salzburg. Herausgegeben von Prof. Mag. Dr. Günther C. Bauer

**WESTERVELD, Govert** (1997). "La influencia de la reina Isabel la Católica sobre la nueva dama poderosa en el origen del juego de las damas y el ajedrez moderno". In collaboration with Rob Jansen. ISBN 84-605-6372-3 - 329 páginas – Foreword of Dr. Ricardo Calvo and Prof. Dr. Juan Torres Fontes - Universidad de Murcia (In Dutch language). **WESTERVELD, Govert** (2004). "La reina Isabel la Católica: su reflejo en la dama poderosa de Valencia, cuna del ajedrez moderno y origen del juego de damas". (With the collaboration of José Antonio Garzón Roger ISBN 84-482-3718-8. 426 páginas. Edita: Generalitat Valenciana. Conselleria de Cultura, Educació i Esport. Secretaria Autònoma de Cultura (In Spanish language)

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Seeing that the first Spanish book of draughts<sup>2</sup> was printed in 1547 in Valencia and the first French book of draughts in 1668, I cannot agree with the theory of the game of draughts being a French invention. I invited Dr. Van der Stoep to proove with archaeological findings that the Alquerque-12 was very popular in France, but according to this historian I should have known that something like that could not be realized. I was not happy with all the scientific explanations offered by Dr. Van der Stoep<sup>3</sup>. Therefore I tried to investigate the archaeological findings of the Alquerque-12 game in France and Spain. I do not believe that the Alquerque-12 game was very popular in France before the XV century.

In volume I you will find the results of my work with regards to Spain and France. The Alquerque-12 drawings were found in 98 places in Spain, whereas there were only 10 drawings in France. That also serves as evidence that the game was not popular at all in France. In volume II of this book you will find 32 Alquerque-12 places in Portugal and 66 in Italy. I believe that more boards will be found in Portugal and Italy in future.

The description of the game of Alquerque-12 is still at an awful quandary, because we have many Alquerque types and each game has its own history. King Alfonso the Wise already let us know in 1283 that there were the Alquerque-3,

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<sup>2</sup> The first chess book in Valencia was: Cf. **VICENT, Francesch** (1495). *Libre dels jochs partits del Scachs en nombre de 100 ordenat e compost per mi Francesch Vicent, nat en la ciutat de Segorbe, criat e vehí de la insigne e valeroso ciutat de Valencia. Y acaba: A loor e gloria de nostre Redentor Jesu Christ fou acabat lo dit libre dels jochs partits dels scachs en la sinsigne ciutat de Valencia e estampat per mans de Lope de Roca Alemany e Pere Trinchet librere á XV dias de Maig del any MCCCCLXXXV.*

<sup>3</sup> **STOEP, Arie van der** (2006) Vierduizend jaar dammen. In: *Het Damspel*, number 5, pp. 16-17.

**STOEP, Arie van der** (2006?) *Four Thousand Years of Draughts (Checkers)*  
In: <http://alemanni.pagesperso-orange.fr/history.html>



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Alquerque-9, and Alquerque-12 games. Therefore the historical explication of the Alquerque-12 game cannot be given in general. However, we constantly see archaeologists and historians publicising general descriptions in which they include the Alquerque-12 game:

"The origin of the game of Alquerque possibly dates back to the Bronze Age; figures known as "Tiras" have been found engraved on rocks in the Alpine region, especially near the Lake of Garda. In ancient Egypt we find boards drawn on stone blocks that form the roof of the Temple of Kurna in the city of Luxor, dated to about 1400BC. As from the historical period they appear on the Galician rocks such as Maia or Baiona and from the Roman world we know the exemplars of Mulva (Sevilla). Others state that the game is thought to have originated in the Middle East."

So some experts let us think that the Alquerque-12 game is coming from ancient Egypt and the Roman world. Other historians follow Dr. Van der Stoep and try to convince us that the game was extremely popular in France, much more than in Spain. Basing themselves on etymology historians even dare to assert that the present checkers (draughts) game was developed in France and that it came there from the Alquerque-12 game. Thus on the internet we see, for example, the following statement:

Alquerque had been played in ancient Egypt more than 3000 years ago, and it was brought to Europe in the 8th century by Moor warriors. This game was an inspiration for contemporary Checkers that was very popular around the world.

Who is the person partially responsible for these nice stories? It is the famous boardgame specialist Harold James Ruthven Murray (1868 – 1955). In 1952 Murray published "*A History of Board Games Other Than Chess*", proposing the theory that Alquerque-12 originated in Egypt and draughts in France.



## **The History of Alquerque-12. Remaining countries. Volume II.**

Since his famous book about the *History of Chess* in 1913 everybody believed what the great board specialist Murray was saying because he was one of the greatest board game specialists. Many historians believe that Murray is infallible, but this attitude will only paralyze future work of others.

Being aware of the fact that till now there still exist some confusion about the Alquerque-12 game, I have concentrated this time on the history of this board game. Again we see that Spain has an important history of this game. For that reason I try to explain in my books about the history of the Alquerque-12 game together with notes on the draughts in order to refute Murray. It is quite clear that there are still some historians who do not believe in Isabelle of Castile. I am quite sure that the same will happen with my history of the Alquerque-12 game. On the other hand I am also sure that there will be other historians who will improve my points of view and that in the future I will receive the same recognition as Murray. However, this is the outcome of research where we are all interested in discovering the full truth at the end.

The Spanish history of the Alquerque-12 game is so important that it is worth some books being written about it. Therefore I hope that my book will provide a great stir among the historians of draughts. At the same time I hope that Spanish archaeologists will template this game with a new perspective. When reading this book it will appear to the reader that the Alquerque-12 game is not immensely old.

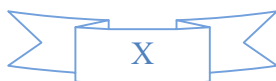
So far historians have not written exclusively about the Alquerque-12 game played in the world. Volumes I and II will be the first books in the world dedicated solely to this game. In volume III I will deal with the historical text of the Alquerque-12 game.

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Writing this type of books is only possible if people are prepared to collaborate. In all these years I have been lucky to get full collaboration of more than 200 people, among them many Spanish, Portuguese, and Italian archaeologists and photographers. Even a pilot helped me by giving photographs of very small villages. I give warm thanks to all of them. I hope I remember to mention all of them in the list I prepared at the end of this book.

**Govert Westerveld**



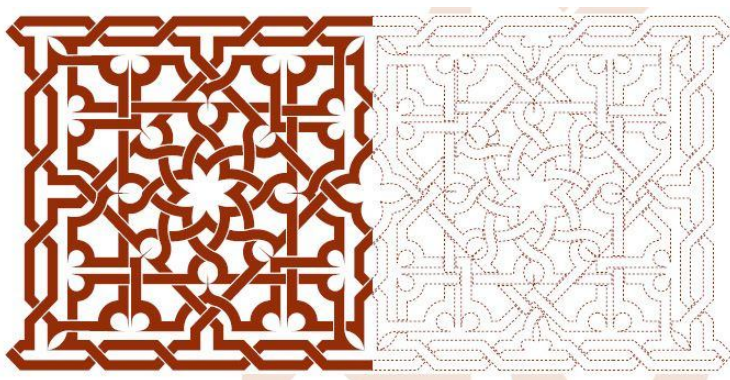
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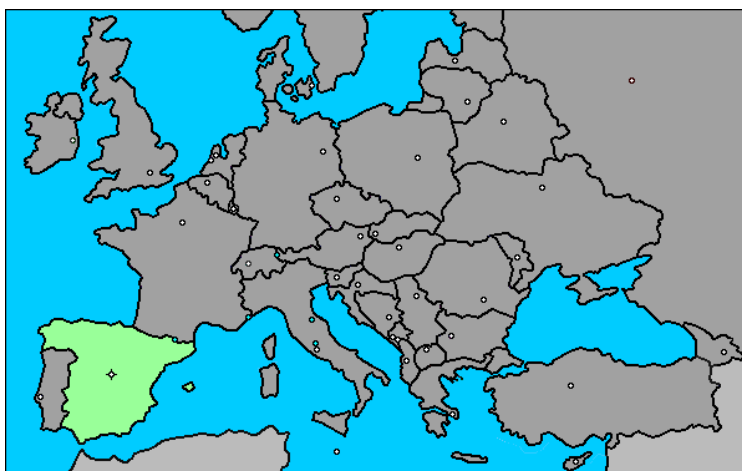
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**Decorative painting of an Alquerque-12 pattern found on a wall of the Museum Santa Clara at Murcia originating from the Muslim period.**

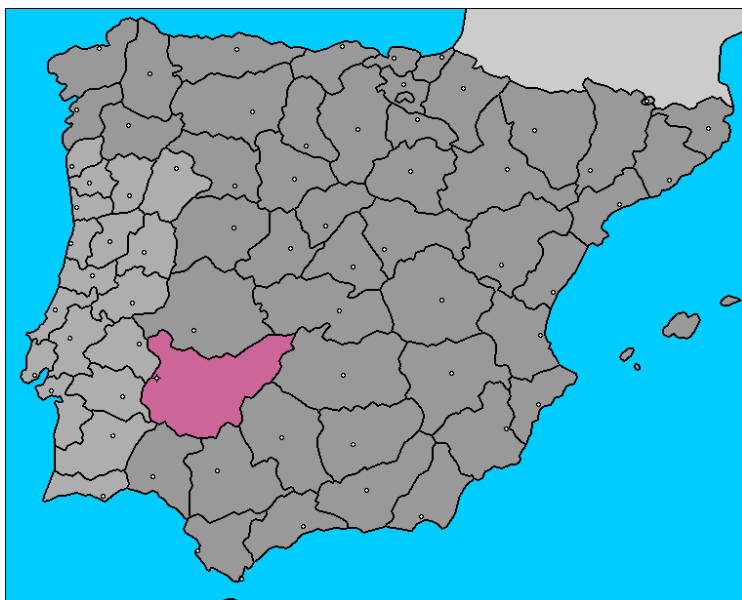
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## **NEW BOARDS FROM SPAIN**





## **PROVINCE OF BADAJOZ**



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### **The drawing of Alquerque-12 of the Ethnographic Museum of Olivenza's Castle, Badajoz**



**Alquerque-12 drawing of the Ethnographic Museum  
Courtesy of: © Juan Manuel Vázquez Ferrera**

A stone that came from the Olivenza's castle has inside 25 holes. Players of the alquerque-12 game used this stone to meet their efforts. Today this stone rests in the Ethnographic Museum of Olivenza.

Spain is one of the best countries in the world to see castles. Throughout the Middle Ages, the Iberian peninsula was split between various Christian states and the Moors, Muslim invaders from North Africa. These factions fought and traded with each other in a constantly changing network of political alliances. Leaders protected their domains with castles and walled cities. Olivenza is a town in the province of Badajoz. It's right on the border with Portugal and is actually claimed

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by that country, although it has been under Spanish jurisdiction since 1801.



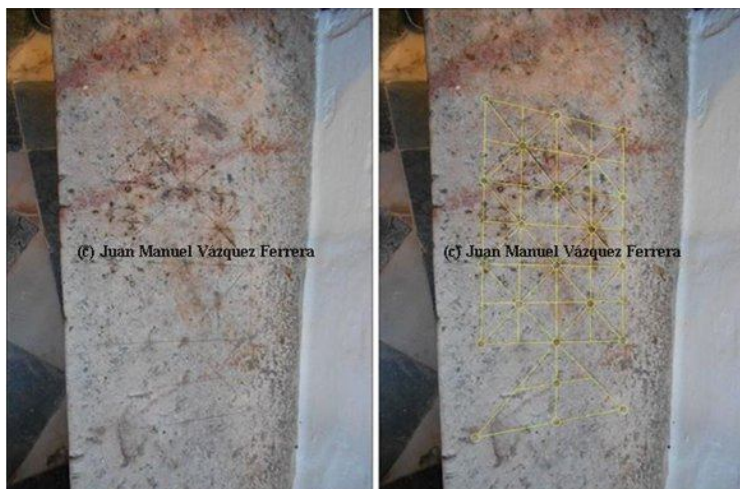
**Castle of Olivenza**

**Courtesy of: © <http://templariosenextremadura.wordpress.com>**

The castle of Olivenza is an impressive Templar fortress adapted from an earlier Muslim castle taken in 1228. It features high walls and imposing square towers. As you can see from the photo in the gallery, these included "murder holes" set out from the edge of the tower from which to drop rocks and boiling water on attackers. The idea of dropping boiling oil is a myth. Water was much cheaper and easier to obtain, although one account from a siege in France talks about using boiling lead! The castle at Olivenza was expanded in the 14th and 16th centuries and is very well preserved, still dominating this small town of 12,000 people. A gate flanked by slender, semi-round towers, and a wide moat also survive.

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**The drawing of Alquerque-12 in one of the windows in the sacristy of the Church of Santa Maria in Olivenza, Badajoz**



Juan Manuel Vazquez Ferrera is another enthusiastic researcher of the alquerque-12 game. Thanks to his efforts we are able to show here different drawings and stones of this game. The Church of Santa Maria in Olivenza has various alquerque-12 drawings. Visitors can see one of them in the windows of the sacristy and another one on the front steps of the church.

Next to the *alcázar* is the church of Santa María del Castillo, supported by huge Ionic columns which are wrapped up in an amber light, as if it were yellow cellophane. There are still traces of Portuguese culture and language in the people, although the younger generations speak Spanish only. At the beginning of the 1940s the city was reportedly mainly Portuguese-speaking, but after the 1940s a language shift towards Spanish took place.

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**An Alquerque-12 game on the front steps**



**Church of Santa María del Castillo in Olivenza  
Courtesy of © [www.turismocomarcadeolivenza.com](http://www.turismocomarcadeolivenza.com)**

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### **The drawing of Alquerque-12 holes on one of the steps of the headquarters of the “Cavalry of Dragons” of Olivenza, Badajoz**

Portugal came to a reorganization of its military forces in the eighteenth century. During that time three regiments were assigned to Olivenza, one cavalry and two infantry.



**Engraving of the alquerque-12 holes on one of the steps**

Visitors will observe another drawing of alquerque-12 holes on one of the steps of the headquarters of the Cavalry of Dragons of Olivenza.

This headquarter was built to house 12 squadrons, with 40 horses each of the Regiment "Dragons of Olivenza" in the eighteenth century during the reign of João V.



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The building is “pombalino style, with sober facade, without ornaments and numerous windows perfectly aligned, with a staircase in the center that divides it into two. This staircase gives access to the upper floor, for the accommodation of soldiers. The lower one was used as a stable.

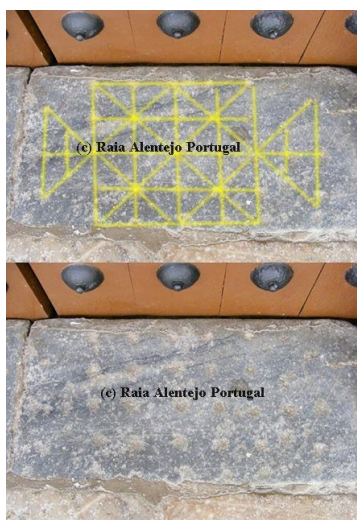
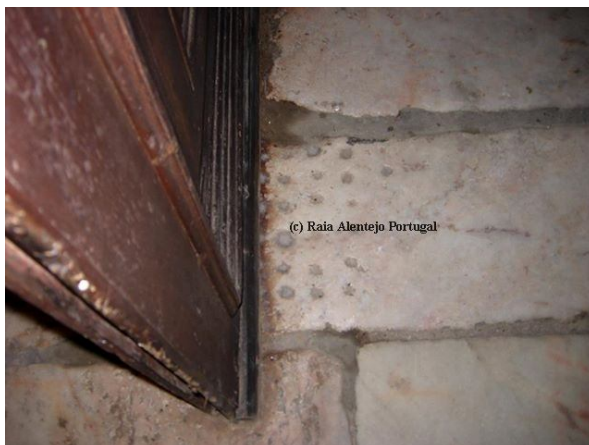
Currently, the building serves as space for the Health Center, INEM offices, the Headquarters of the People's University, ADERCO offices, veterinary office, local radio and other entities and associations.



**The Headquarter of “Cavalry of Dragons”**

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**The drawing of Alquerque-12 on the atrium of the  
entrance of the church of Santa María de Magdalena at  
Olivenza, Badajoz**





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Another stone with an Alquerque-12 board with holes. It is in the entrance hall to the church of the Magdalena. Obviously, this is not its original place, ignoring its first place. In the tiled interior of the church here are more of such game boards. However, there are much more alquerque-12 drawings in the church of Santa Maria de Magdalena. Raia Alentejo of Portugal mentioned on the 19<sup>th</sup> september, 2013 of at least 8 boards more. The one we are showing here is the most attractive one.

This church dates from the 16th century. The church was commissioned to serve as a temple worthy of the place of residence of the bishops of Ceuta. From 1512 the bishops of Ceuta resided in Olivenza. The first bishop was Fray Enrique de Coimbra, confessor of King Manuel.

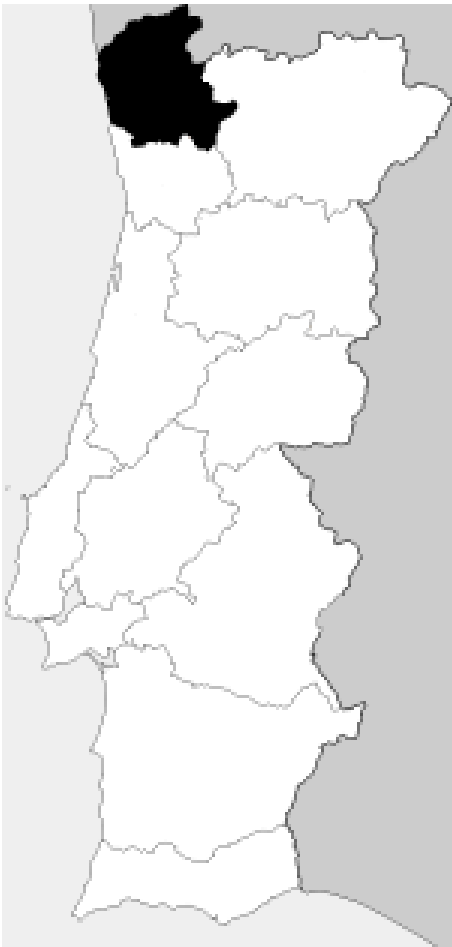


**The church Santa Maria del Castillo**  
**Courtesy of: © <http://www.elrincondeltrotamundos.com>**

## **PORTUGAL**



**PROVINCE OF MINHO**



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**The drawing of Alquerque XII, at the Monastery of San Fiz de Freitas of the province of Minho.**



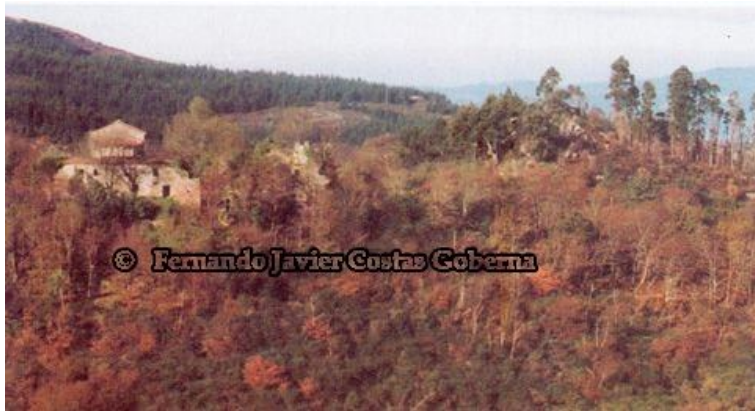
**Drawing of the Alquerque-12 of San Fiz  
Photo: Courtesy of © Fernando Javier Costas Goberna**

This drawing of Alquerque-12 is found underneath the Monastery of San Fiz, near to the church of the same name, above Barreira, which place is for all the parishioners of Verdoexo. Verdoexo belongs to the Valença de Minho that is situated northern Portugal. This board is located near to a drawing of the alquerque-9 (Nine Men's Morris), and it is probably made by monks who lived in that area or people who came to it to participate in the daily life of this Monastery. San Fiz the Freitas is indebted for its name to the Monastery and fortress, which origin have been documented in the twelfth century.

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**Aproximate location of the Monastery of San Fiz**

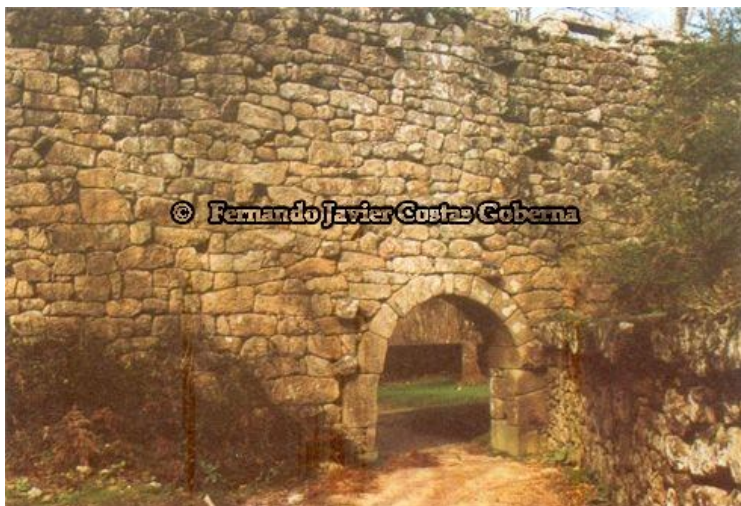


**San Martin de Freitas on the Portugues bank of Minho.  
Photo: Courtesy of Fernando Javier Costas Goberna**

On this photograph, we see San Martin de Freitas on the banks of the Portugues Minho. On the left, we see the

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monastery, on the South door of the church the board of alquerque-9 is found, and on the right the boards of alquerque-9 and alquerque-12 are found at a higher position. On the next photo, we see the entrance of the monastery San Fiz de Freitas. There, various boards of alquerque are found<sup>1</sup>.



**Entrance of the monastery San Fiz de Freitas  
Photo: Courtesy of Fernando Javier Costas Goberna**

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<sup>1</sup> **COSTAS GOBERNA, Fernando Javier & HIDALGO CUÑARRO, José Manuel** (1997). Los juegos de tablero en Galicia, pp. 121-122.



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**The drawing of Alquerque XII at the Abbey of San Torcato, near to Guimaraes of the Province Minho.**

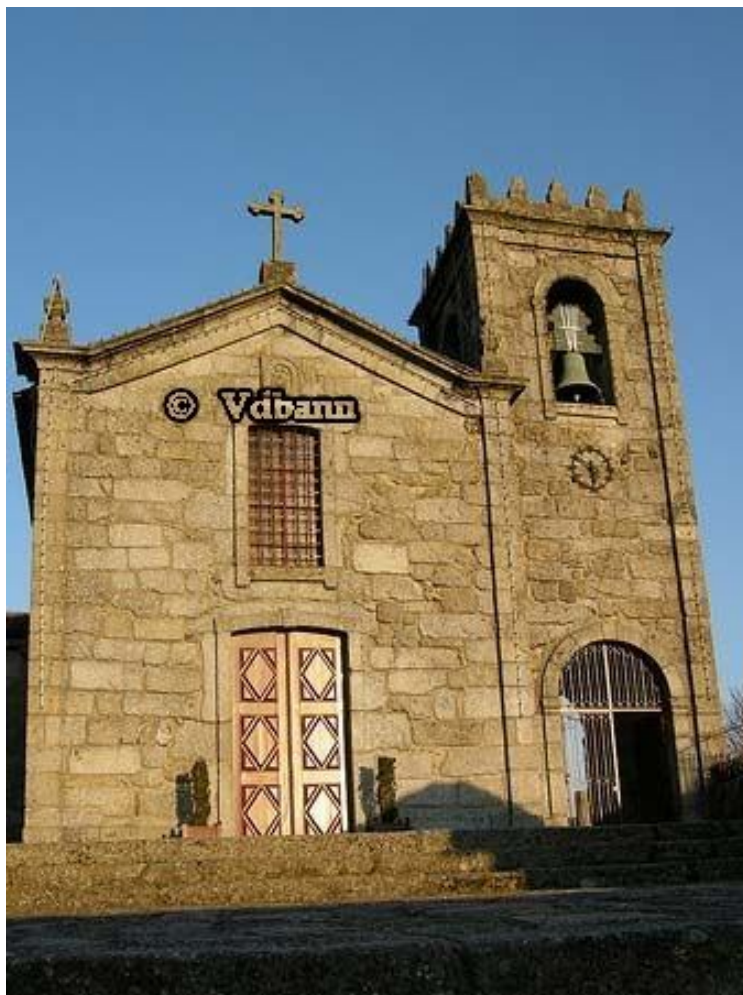
In the ruins of the cloister of the former Abbey of San Torcato, near to the center of the city Guimaraes, a drawing of alquerque-12 is observed. The size is approximately 37 cm long and 37 cm wide. The ashlar used for the engraving of this board has a larger size than the ashlars to be found near to it. Consequently the ashlar of the drawing can be a reused piece, or the other ashlars near to it are reused.



**An Alquerque XII at the Abbey of San Torcato.  
Photo: Courtesy of © José Manuel Hidalgo Cuñarro**

The present church of St. Torcato, the outskirts of Guimarães, is the result of several building phases over nearly four centuries (X-XIII). The general appearance of the temple date of this period, namely a constructive Romanesque phase, still dated from the first half of the twelfth century.

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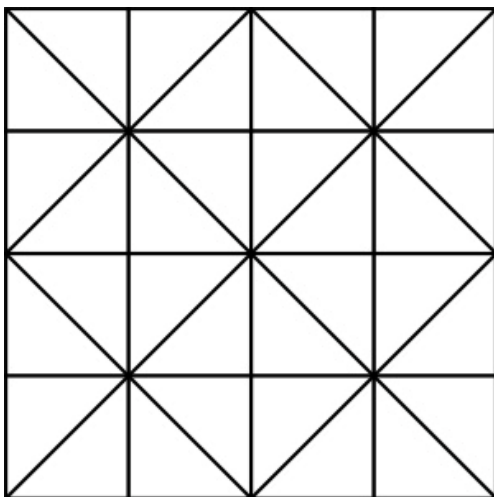
**Former Abbey of San Torcato**  
**Photo: courtesy of © Vdbann ([www.flickr.com](http://www.flickr.com))**



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**The Alquerque XII drawing, at the ancient cloister of the church of Nossa Senhora da Oliveira at Guimaraes of the province Minho.**

In this cloister, at least four drawings of alquerque-12 are found from the total fifteen drawings. The four drawings of alquerque-12 have different sizes. One of them is 32 cm long and 30 cm wide; another smaller one has a size of 26 cm long and 24 cm wide; a third one has a size of 26 long and 22 cm wide and finally the latest one has a size of 19 cm long and 18 cm wide. The ancient cloister of the church of Nossa Senhora da Oliveira at Guimaraes is presently called Museu Nacional Alberto Sampaio.



I am not able to show the readers the different photos of the alquerque-12 boards that were made by Fernando Javier Costas Goberna. This was forbidden by the "Museu Nacional Alberto Sampaio". Apparently, the overwhelming bureaucracy of this Museum did not make it possible to give me

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authorization to publish the many photos of the boards I received from Fernando Javier Costas Goberna.



**Museu Alberto Sampaio, Guimaraes**  
**Photo: Fernando Javier Costas Goberna**

Consequently, I prefer to refer for the photo of the Alquerque-12 drawings of the ancient cloister of the church of Nossa Senhora da Oliveira to:

<http://mat.fc.ul.pt/Museu da Câmara Municipal de Lisboa><sup>2</sup>.

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<sup>2</sup> Photos in the exposition of boardgames in other times “Pedras que Jogam”, 29 April to 23 June 2004, organized by Adelaide Carreira – Departamento de Matemática da Faculdade de Ciências da Universidade de Lisboa. Edite Alberto, Lúcia Fernandes – Museu da Cidade da Câmara Municipal de Lisboa.  
<http://es.scribd.com/doc/118247986/Pedras-Que-Jogam>, pp. 4 and 48-55.

**PROVINCE OF TRÁS-OS-MONTES E  
ALTO DOURO**



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### **The drawing of alquerque-12 in Domus Bragança, of the province Trás-os-Montes e Alto Douro.**

Archaeologists found an Alquerque-12 board in the Municipalis Domus. The **Domus municipalis** is a Romanesque building in the northeastern municipality of Bragança in Portugal. A singular (enigmatic) building of Romanesque civic architecture, it is an eloquent extension of the medieval prison tower that it juxtapositions<sup>3</sup>.



**Alquerque-12 in Domus Bragança**  
**Photo: Courtesy of © José María Albo Morán - Fernando**  
**Javier Costas Goberna**

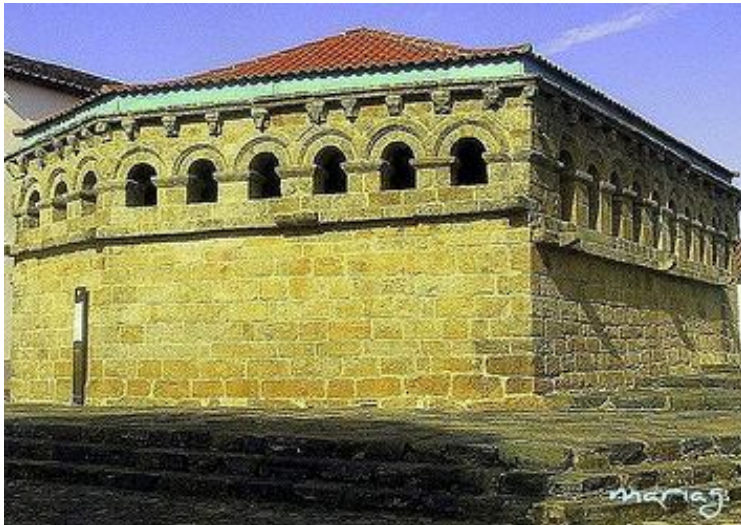
Its construction was, most likely, in the first half of the 13th century, coincident with the foundation of the cistern. In 1501,

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<sup>3</sup> **DGEMN, ed.** (1936). Domus Municipalis" de Bragança, Boletim nº 4 (in Portuguese), Lisbon, Portugal: Direcção-Geral dos Edifícios e Monumentos Nacionais.

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in the published writings of the Abbot of Baçal, the author referred to the local record of Martim Anes, who spoke of the construction of the *Domus* during his lifetime. In this account, Martin Anes stated that it was used as a meeting place for the "good men" of the municipality. By 1503, the *Domus* was remodelled to partition the hall into two divisions to formalize its use as municipal hall<sup>4</sup>. This drawing was also discussed in the article of "Pedras que Jogam"<sup>5</sup>.



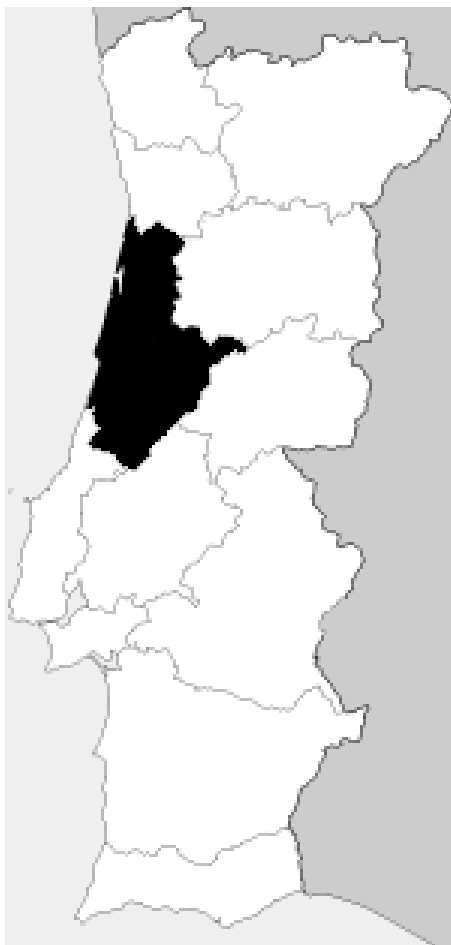
**Domus Municipalis – Bragança**  
**Photo: Courtesy of © Maria Gomes**

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<sup>4</sup> **DIONÍSIO, SANTANA** (ed.). Guia de Portugal (in Portuguese) (5 ed.), Lisbon, Portugal, pp. 949–951

<sup>5</sup> Photos in the exposition of boardgames in other times “Pedras que Jogam”, 29 April to 23 June 2004, organized by Adelaide Carreira – Departamento de Matemática da Faculdade de Ciências da Universidade de Lisboa. Edite Alberto, Lúcia Fernandes – Museum da Cidade da Câmara Municipal de Lisboa.  
<http://es.scribd.com/doc/118247986/Pedras-Que-Jogam>, pp. 26-28.

## **PROVINCE OF BEIRA LITORAL**



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**Alquerque de XII, at the cloister of the Sé Velha de  
Coimbra of the province Beira Litoral.**



**Alquerque de XII, in a grave at the cloister of the Sé Velha**

**Photo: Courtesy of (c) Jorge Nuno Silva**

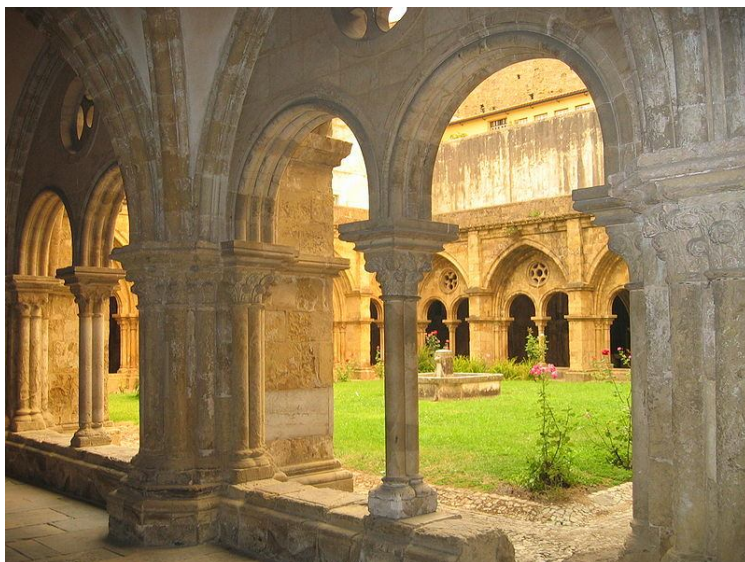
Who were the players of an alquerque-12 drawing that appears in a grave at the cloister of the Sé Velha? What was the exact year of this grave in Coimbra? These are some unknowns that have to be clarified.

Coimbra (the Roman *Aeminium*) is the seat of a bishopric since the 5th century, after neighbouring Conimbriga was invaded and partially destroyed by the invading Sueves in 468. The Old Cathedral of Coimbra (Portuguese: *Sé Velha de Coimbra*) is one of the most influential Romanesque Roman Catholic buildings in Portugal. Construction of the Sé Velha began some time after the Battle of Ourique (1139), when



## **The History of Alquerque-12. Remaining countries. Volume II.**

Count Afonso Henriques declared himself King of Portugal and chose Coimbra as capital.



**The cloister of the Sé Velha.**

[http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Se\\_Velha\\_de\\_Coimbra\\_4.jpg](http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Se_Velha_de_Coimbra_4.jpg)

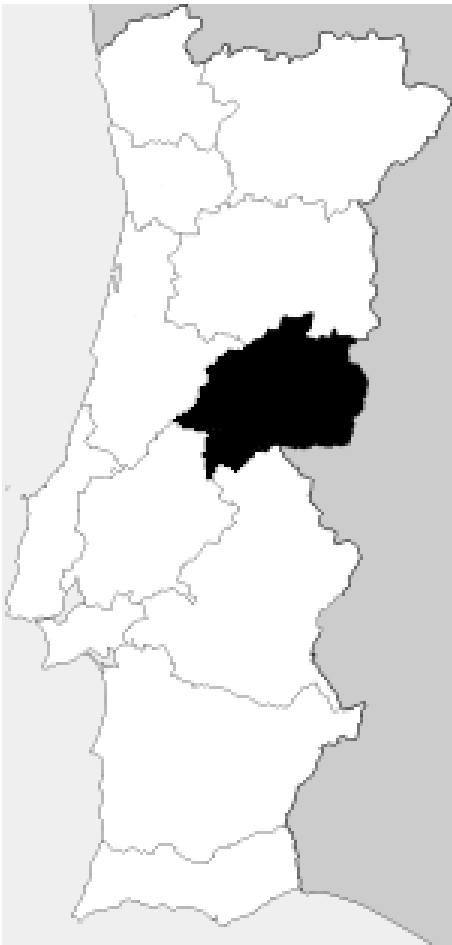
Photo: Raph

(Image of: PHGCOM/Wikimedia Commons/GNU Free Documentation License, Version 1.2 or any later/Creative Commons Attribution-Share Alike 3.0 Unported, 2.5 Generic, 2.0 Generic and 1.0 Generic)

The definitive impulse to the project was given by Bishop Miguel Salomão, who helped pay for the works. In 1185, King Sancho I, second King of Portugal, was crowned in the new cathedral, indicating that the building work was in an advanced state. The basic building was finished in the first decades of the 13th century, even though the cloisters were begun only in 1218, during the reign of King Afonso II.



# PROVINCE OF BEIRA BAIXA



## **The History of Alquerque-12. Remaining countries. Volume II.**

### **The alquerque-12 drawing at Capela do Espírito Santo, Penha Garcia, Idanha-a-nova, of the province Beira Baixa.**

In the chapel of Penha Garcia, an unusually small alquerque-12 drawing was found by Lída Fernandes and Edite Alberto<sup>6</sup> that in an earlier period was catalogued as a Nine's Morris game<sup>7</sup>. The authors observe also another alquerque-12 drawing on a stone next to the right side of the door of the main facade. However, the drawing is not complete. Different than the authors I still prefer to have my doubts before considering this as an alquerque-12 drawing.



**In the arc of the interior of the church - above the stave imposed  
Photo: Lídea Fernandes**

The size of this not very regular drawing was 27 x 30 cm, and probably the function in earlier times of this stone was that one

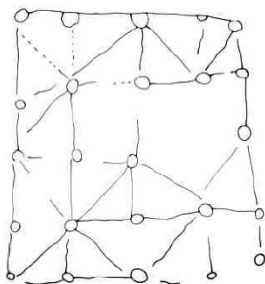
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<sup>6</sup> **FERNANDES, Lídea & ALBERTO, Edite** (2009). Sobre os jogos gravados en pedra do distrito de Castelo branco. In: Acafa, Nº 2, pp. 12-13

<sup>7</sup> **HENRIQUE, Franciso** (1996). A Festa do espírito Santo no Ladoeiro e no Sul da Beira Interior, Associação de Estudos do Alto Tejo, *Açafa*, Nº 1, Vila Velha de Róao, 1996, p. 174.

## **The History of Alquerque-12. Remaining countries. Volume II.**

of a game board. It is difficult to say the age of this drawing, but it is known that this chapel was built in the XVI century.

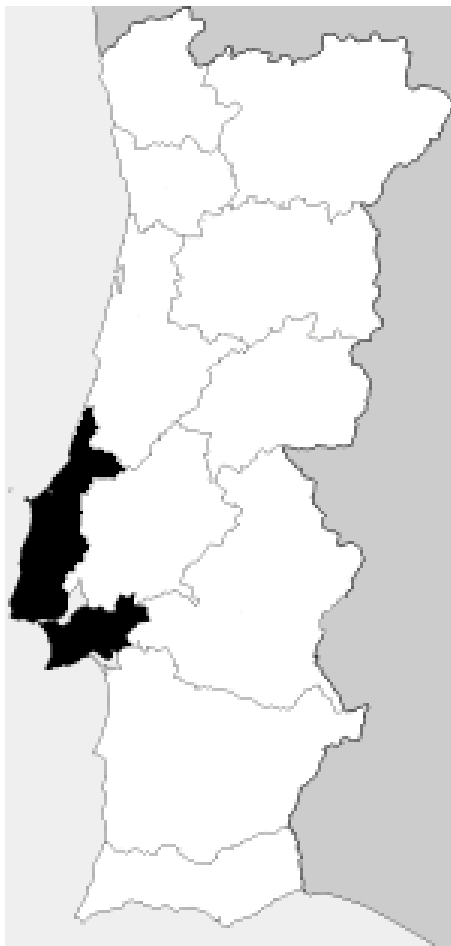


**In the arc of the interior of the church - above the stave imposed  
Photo: Lídea Fernandes**



**Capela do Espírito Santo, Penha Garcia, Idanha-a-nova  
Photo: Courtesy of (c) Santilucky**

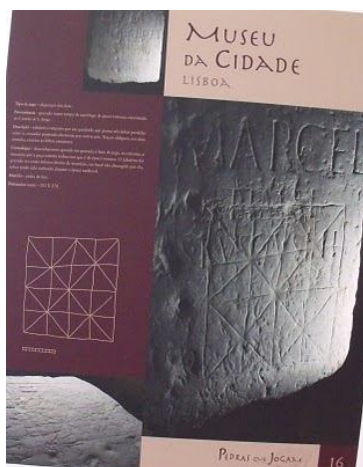
## **PROVINCE OF ESTREMADURA**



## **The History of Alquerque-12. Remaining countries. Volume II.**

**Alquerque-12 coming from a lid on a sarcophagus from the Roman Castle S. Jorge at Lisboa of the province Estremadura.**

The Museum of the City of Lisbon showed varios photos of alquerque boards on a folder, among them the game of Alquerque of twelve, on a lid of a sarcophagus from the Roman Castle S. Jorge<sup>8</sup>.



Saint George's Castle can be seen from almost everywhere in the city. Its oldest parts date from the 6th century, when it was fortified by the Romans, Visigoths, and eventually the Moors. It served as a Moorish royal residence until Portugal's first king Afonso Henriques captured it in 1147 with the help of northern European crusaders on their way to the Holy Land.

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<sup>8</sup> Photos in the exposition of boardgames in other times “Pedras que Jogam”, 29 April to 23 June 2004, organized by Adelaide Carreira – Departamento de Matemática da Faculdade de Ciências da Universidade de Lisboa. Edite Alberto, Lídia Fernandes – Museum da Cidade da Câmara Municipal de Lisboa.  
<http://es.scribd.com/doc/118247986/Pedras-Que-Jogam>, pp. 65-67.

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**The Saint George castle in Lisbon**

<http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:CastilloSanJorge.JPG>

Photo: Manuel González Olachea y Franco

(Image of: PHGCOM/Wikimedia Commons/GNU Free Documentation License, Version 1.2 or any later/Creative Commons Attribution-Share Alike 3.0 Unported, 2.5 Generic, 2.0 Generic and 1.0 Generic)

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**Alquerque-12 in the Patio Dom Fradique at Lisboa of the  
province Estremadura.**



**An Alquerque-12 in the Patio Dom Fradrique at Lisboa  
Photo: Courtesy of (c) <http://mat.fc.ul.pt>**

On the superior part of the right wall, before the house, of the Patio Dom Fradique one can observe an alquerque-12 drawing<sup>9</sup>.

The place "Pátio Dom Fradique" is located at the south of the Castle of Saint Jorge. It is near to one of the medieval entries of the Alcaçova, called Belmonte, due to the name of one of

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<sup>9</sup> Photos in the exposition of boardgames in other times "Pedras que Jogam", 29 April to 23 June 2004, organized by Adelaide Carreira – Departamento de Matemática da Faculdade de Ciências da Universidade de Lisboa. Edite Alberto, Lúcia Fernandes – Museum da Cidade da Câmara Municipal de Lisboa.  
<http://es.scribd.com/doc/118247986/Pedras-Que-Jogam>, pp. 68-70.

## **The History of Alquerque-12. Remaining countries. Volume II.**

the towers. This tower is nowadays integrated in a Palace (Pálacio de Belmonte) which was converted into an inn.

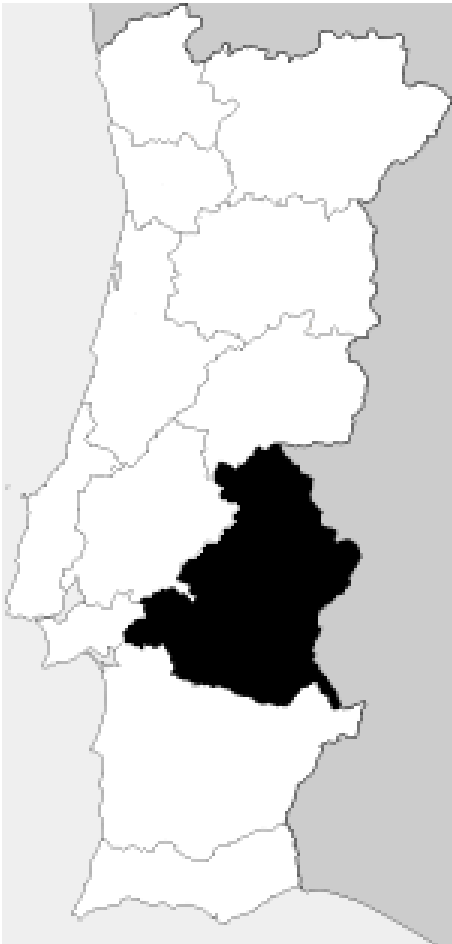


**Patio Dom Fradrique in Lisboa**  
**Photo: Courtesy of (c) <http://mat.fc.ul.pt>**

Belmonte Palace is the oldest palace in Lisbon, built in the fifteenth century under the captivating spell of the Arab neighborhood of Alfama, attached to the abutments of the Castle of São Jorge. The national monument was restored with the slogans of historical and environmental respect. Nearby the Patio Dom Fradrique we will find Alfama. That is the oldest area of Lisbon, spreading on the slope between the Castle of Lisbon and the Tejo river. During the times of Moorish domination, Alfama constituted the whole of the city, which later spread to the West (Baixa neighbourhood). Alfama became inhabited by the fishermen and the poor, and its condition as the neighbourhood of the poor continues to this day.



**PROVINCE OF ALTO ALENTEJO**



## **The History of Alquerque-12. Remaining countries. Volume II.**

### **An Alquerque-12 holes drawing in the village Mourão, Évora, of the province Alto Alentejo.**

Apparently, the researchers of the Proyecto Raia Alentejana also found an alquerque-12 holes drawing in the village of Mourão<sup>10</sup>.



**The Alquerque-12 holes drawing in the village Mourão  
Photo: Courtesy of (c) Proyecto Raia Alentejana**

The precise situation of this drawing in the village is unknown, but with this discovery it became clear that Portugal could have still many other places of alquerque-12 drawings.

Mourão is a municipality in Portugal with a total area of 279.0 km<sup>2</sup> and a total population of 3,315 inhabitants. The

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<sup>10</sup> <http://traveltoalentejoportugal.blogspot.com.es/>

## **The History of Alquerque-12. Remaining countries. Volume II.**

municipality has of 3 parishes and is located in the District of Évora. It borders the municipality of Alandroal to the north, Spain to the west, Barrancos to the south-east, Moura to the south and Reguengos de Monsaraz to the east.



**Landscape of the village Mourão**  
**Photo: Courtesy of (c) Marco Vida**

## **The History of Alquerque-12. Remaining countries. Volume II.**

**The drawing of an Alquerque-12, on a rocky outcrop located near to the Moinho do Pinheiro (Pine Mill) at Ribeira de Valverde, Évora of the province Alto Alentejo.**



**An Alquerque-12 on a rocky outcrop  
Photo: Courtesy of (c) <http://mat.fc.ul.pt>**

The Departamento de Matemática da Faculdade de Ciências da Universidade de Lisboa realized important studies with regards to the alquerque-12 game in whole Portugal. Thanks to its efforts this university could organize an important booklet on the alquerque boards in Portugal and had the corresponding expositions at the Museu da Câmara Municipal de Lisboa<sup>11</sup>.

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<sup>11</sup> Photos in the folder about the exposition of boardgames in other times “Pedras que Jogam”, 29 April to 23 June 2004, organized by Adelaide Carreira – Departamento de Matemática da Faculdade de Ciências da Universidade de Lisboa. Edite Alberto, Lúcia Fernandes – Museu da Cidade da Câmara Municipal de Lisboa.

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Adelaide Carreira, of the "Departamento de Matemáticas da Faculdade de Ciências de la Universidade de Lisboa"; and the editor Alberto and Lidia Fernandes of the "Museu da Cidade da Câmara Municipal de Lisboa" made an decisive CD publication with the tittle "*Pedras que Jogam*". In this CD at least four photos show the alquerque-12 located on this rocky outcrop<sup>12</sup>.



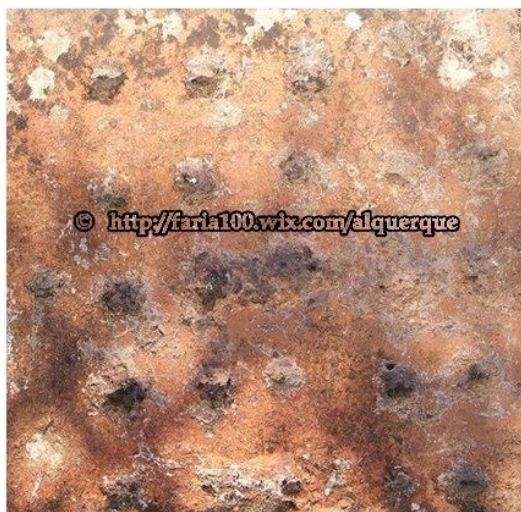
**Moinho do Pinheiro (Pine Mill) at Ribeira de Valverde, Évora.  
Photo: Courtesy (c) of Paulo Manço**

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<sup>12</sup> <http://es.scribd.com/doc/118247986/Pedras-Que-Jogam>, pp. 73-76.

## **The History of Alquerque-12. Remaining countries. Volume II.**

### **1.-Alquerque-12 in the Hermitage of Sao Pedro at Alandroal of the province Alto Alentejo.**



**The drawing of Alquerque-12 holes at Hermitage Sao Pedro  
Photo: Courtesy of (c) <http://faria100.wix.com/alquerque>**

Larrén Izquierdo mentions in her article that there are different places where the holes' boards and games are considered to be the alquerque-12. Among them, she mentions the place Alandroal (Portugal) without any further information<sup>13</sup>. Investigating further this matter we come to the Raia Alentejo Project. The aim of this project is: "to preserve and promote the cultural identity of Raia Alentejo keeping alive the inside

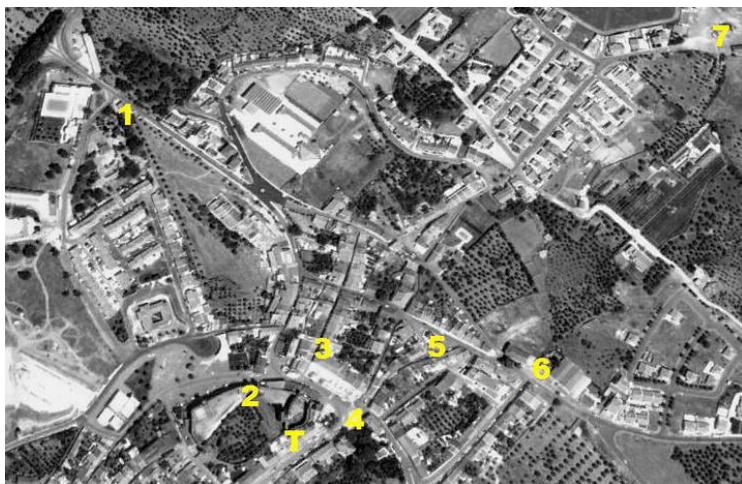
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<sup>13</sup> **LARRÉN IZQUIERDO, Hortensia** (2009). Juegos de alquerque y arquitectura medieval, pp. 608 – 614. In: Alfonso X El Sabio: [Exposición] Sala San Esteban, Murcia, 27 octubre 2009 – 31 january 2010 / [coordinación para el catálogo, María Teresa López de Guereño Sanz]. Citation on p. 608.



## **The History of Alquerque-12. Remaining countries. Volume II.**

of Portugal. We have at hand a campaign against desertification of the inside country, a fight against time because in the older persons lies the wisdom of generations, what makes us Portuguese. We hope, through tourism, to bring people into the Raia promoting economy. Those who visit us maybe want to live here, but more importantly, we encourage the people of Raia not to emigrate neither to lose the hope. Consequently they made an exhaustive study of all their alquerque-12 boards in Alandroal to promote tourism<sup>14</sup>, and of course their efforts cannot fail in this book.



**Alquerque-12 boards in Alandroal**

**Photo: Courtesy of (c) <http://faria100.wix.com/alquerque>**

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<sup>14</sup> <http://faria100.wix.com/alquerque>

O objectivo deste Projecto é preservar e divulgar a identidade cultural da Raia Alentejana mantendo vivo o interior de Portugal. Temos em mãos uma luta contra a desertificação do interior, uma luta contra o tempo pois é nos mais velhos que reside o saber de gerações, aquilo que faz de nós portugueses. Esperamos trazer cada vez mais gente para a Raia fomentando a economia através do Turismo. Quem visita e gosta talvez por cá queira viver, mas mais importante, motivamos as gentes da Raia para não emigram nem perderem a esperança.

## **The History of Alquerque-12. Remaining countries. Volume II.**

Visitors especially like the game that belongs to the alquerque-12, present with small circular holes instead of the traditional drawing of lines.



**Hermitage of Sao Pedro at Alandroal  
Photo: Courtesy (c) of Francisco Tata**

The visitors will find at the Hermitage of Sao Pedro at Alandroal four holes' drawings of the alquerque-12 game. The founding date of the hermitage of Saint Peter (Old Church of "Sao Pedro" and "Ermida da Senhora do Rosário") remains unknown, although it is known that the first ecclesiastical visitation occurred in the year 1534. This hermitage, possibly, was built in the the 16<sup>th</sup> century by the people of Alandroal. After being hit by the 1755 earthquake, it was repaired only a few decades later. Inside, the existence of a choir is something worthwhile to see.



## **The History of Alquerque-12. Remaining countries. Volume II.**

### **2.-The drawing of a variant of the alquerque-12 at the Nossa Senhora da Conceição at Alandroal of the province of Alto Alentejo.**

The visitors will find six holes' drawings of the alquerque-12 game at the Nossa Senhora da Conceição of Alandroal<sup>15</sup>.



**Alquerque-12 holes at the Church 'Nossa Senhora da Conceição'**  
**Photo: Courtesy of (c) <http://faria100.wix.com/alquerque>**

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<sup>15</sup> Other photos in the exposition of boardgames in other times “Pedras que Jogam”, 29 April to 23 June 2004, organized by Adelaide Carreira – Departamento de Matemática da Faculdade de Ciências da Universidade de Lisboa. Edite Alberto, Lídia Fernandes – Museum da Cidade da Câmara Municipal de Lisboa.  
<http://es.scribd.com/doc/118247986/Pedras-Que-Jogam>, pp. 19-21.

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**The church of Nossa Senhora da Conceição at Alandroal  
Photo: Courtesy of (c) Vitor Oliveira**

The present Church of the XVI century succeeded another dated earlier of the XIII century, although the existing game board there should be ascribed to a comparatively recent date. The foundation of the parish church of Nossa Senhora da Graça seems to date back from the origins of the Castle. It is known that it already existed in the year of 1320 still as chaplains of Juromenho. In 1359, it was as the commend of the Order of Avis. With the National Independence, the consecration of the temple passed to Imaculada Conceição. The church "Nossa Senhora da Conceição" is a parish in the municipality of Alandroal with 156.60 km<sup>2</sup> and it had 1873 inhabitants in 2011.

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**The church of Nossa Senhora da Conceição at Alandroal  
Photo: Courtesy of (c) Francisco Tata**

## **The History of Alquerque-12. Remaining countries. Volume II.**

### **3. Alquerque-12 near to Passo do Senhor at Alandroal of the province Alto Alentejo.**

The visitors will find one "holes" drawing of the alquerque-12 game at the Passo do Senhor of Alandroal.



**One "holes" drawing of the alquerque-12**  
**Photo: Courtesy of (c) <http://faria100.wix.com/alquerque>**

There does not exist any other available information. For that reason, I do not know where this drawing exactly can be found. However, it is quite clear that this drawing board was used in Alandroal. The inhabitants of Alandroal did not use the board with lines to play the alquerque-12 game. This, ofcourse, is a rather strange matter.

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**Passo do Senhor at Alandroal**

**Photo: Courtesy of (c) <http://faria100.wix.com/alquerque>**

The date is unsure of the establishment of the Brotherhood of the "Senhor dos Passos" in Alandroal. This Brotherhood is old and dates back to the seventeenth century. However, the current penitential chapels were built at the end of the seventeenth century so that now more investigation is needed to clear up the exact date of the original chapel. There are currently four penitential chapels. However, this tradition is a extremely old one. We know, for example, that there is no defined date to the institution of the Santa Casa da Misericórdia brotherhood, but it probably happened in the kingdom of the King Manuel I (1469-1521).



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### **4. Alquerque-12 on the side steps of the fountain of the six spouts at Alandroal of the province Alto Alentejo.**

Five alquerque-12 drawings are housed on the side steps and side walls of this fountain. The waterspouts of the fountain have a construction of the XVII-XVIII century. Certainly the board games come from this time, although it is difficult to determine when such games have been extensively used, which is evidenced by the enormous wear of the holes<sup>16</sup>.



**The fountain of Alandroal**  
**Photo: Courtesy (c) of António Ribeiro da Silva**

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<sup>16</sup> Photos in the exposition of boardgames in other times “Pedras que Jogam”, 29 April to 23 June 2004, organized by Adelaide Carreira – Departamento de Matemática da Faculdade de Ciências da Universidade de Lisboa. Edite Alberto, Lúcia Fernandes – Museum da Cidade da Câmara Municipal de Lisboa.  
<http://es.scribd.com/doc/118247986/Pedras-Que-Jogam>, pp. 9-13.

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**Two alquerque-12 drawings at the fountain of Alandroal  
Photo: Courtesy of (c) <http://faria100.wix.com/alquerque>**

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**An alquerque-12 drawings at the fountain of Alandroal  
Photo: Courtesy of (c) <http://faria100.wix.com/alquerque>**



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**An alquerque-12 drawings at the fountain of Alandroal  
Photo: Courtesy of (c) <http://faria100.wix.com/alquerque>**

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**5.-Alquerque-12 holes on the steps of the Chapel Sao Sebastiao at Alandroal of the province Alto Alentejo.**



**Alquerque-12 holes on the step of the Chapel Sao Sebastiao  
Photo: Courtesy of (c) <http://mat.fc.ul.pt>**

The visitors will find at the Chapel of Sao Sebastiao<sup>17</sup> three alquerque-12 holes drawings. The hermitage was established in the 16th century, but was severely damaged by the great earthquake of 1755 and therefore, was remodelled during the renovations.

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<sup>17</sup> Other photos in the exposition of boardgames in other times “Pedras que Jogam”, 29 April to 23 June 2004, organized by Adelaide Carreira – Departamento de Matemática da Faculdade de Ciências da Universidade de Lisboa. Edite Alberto, Lúcia Fernandes – Museum da Cidade da Câmara Municipal de Lisboa.  
<http://es.scribd.com/doc/118247986/Pedras-Que-Jogam>, pp. 14-18

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**Hermitage São Sebastião at Alandroal  
Photo: Courtesy of (c) Francisco Tata**

It is dedicated to São Sebastião, the saint believed to provide protection against hunger, plague and war. This monument is a good example of religious architecture typical of the region, with its façade decorated by single bell tower. The interior, equally simple, has only one altar. In 1870 the hermitage grounds were used for the construction of a public cemetery.

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### **5.-Alquerque-12 holes on the steps of the Chapel São Antonio at Alandroal of the province Alto Alentejo.**

Three alquerque-12 holes drawings the visitors will find on the different steps of the Chapel of Saint Antonio.



**Alquerque-12 holes on the step of the Chapel Saint Antonio**  
**Photo: Courtesy of (c) <http://faria100.wix.com/alquerque>**

This chapel is situated in the street "Rua de Santo António" (7250-126) in Alandroal. The church of Baroque architecture consists of a nave and chancel. The temple and altar were built in the eighteenth century, and the courtyard dates from 1961.

Apart from the photo of the firm Igogo<sup>18</sup> two other different photos were seen of the Chapel of Santo Antonio. So it is difficult to say if the photo of Igogo is the correct one. In any case, the visitors can help themselves with the map, too.

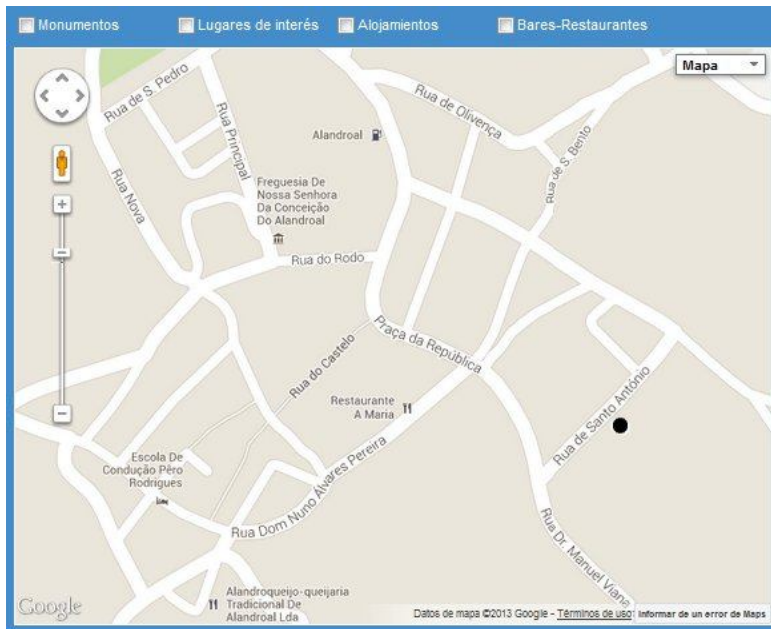
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<sup>18</sup> <http://www.igogo.pt/ermida-de-santo-antonio/>

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**The Chapel São Antonio at Alandroal**  
**Photo: Courtesy of (c) Francisco Tata**



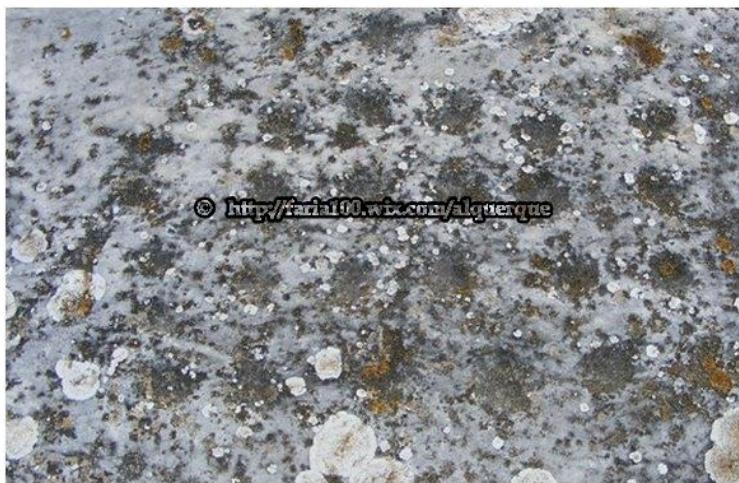
**Mapa: <http://alquevarural.com/alandroal/mapa> (c) Google**



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**6.-Alquerque-12 on the steps of the Hermitage Bento at  
Alandroal of the province Alto Alentejo.**

Two alquerque-12 holes' drawings the visitors will find at the Hermitage of Bento.



**Alquerque-12 holes of the Hermitage Bento**  
**Photo: Courtesy of (c) <http://faria100.wix.com/alquerque>**

The exact foundation date of this hermitage is unknown, but the building was in this place in 1580, although not at that time dedicated to São Bento. A case of plague broke out in the town, in 1580. This implies that the drawings of the alquerque-12 boards are not exceptionally old.

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**The hermitage Sao Bento**  
**Photo: Courtesy of (c) Francisco Tata**

A legend tells that a hermit by the name of João Sirgado went to the hermitage every day to pray to São Bento and that his praying saved the village from the evils of the plague of that year. After this plague, as gratitude, the hermitage was dedicated to São Bento.



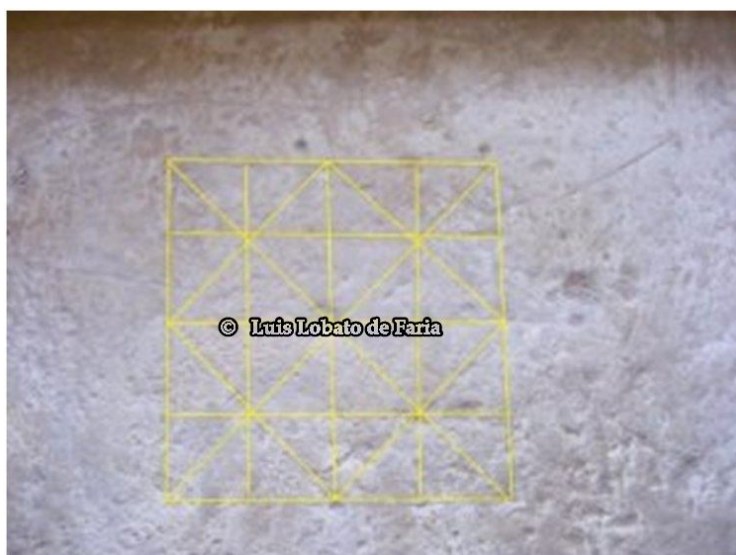
**Francisco Tata**

I am greatly indebted to Mr. Francisco Tata, for his contribution to this game and exchange of emails. This inhabitant of the village Alandroal made a lot of efforts, and he made outstanding photos for me for this book.

## **The History of Alquerque-12. Remaining countries. Volume II.**

### **Alquerque-12 drawing in the former prison of Juromenha of the province Alto Alentejo.**

In Portugal, we have with the archaeologist and historian Luis Lobato de Faria a unusually active investigator for the alquerque-12 drawings. Recently he found an alquerque-12 drawing on the windowsill of the former prison of Juromenha<sup>19</sup>.



**Alquerque-12 drawing in former prison of Juromenha  
Photo: Courtesy of (c) Luis Lobato de Faria**

It is not possible to determine the age of this drawing. The Fortification of Juromenha has traces of the Roman Fort, the Visigoths, the Islamic Castle, the Castle and the Christian bastion fortifications. The researcher highlight the Juromenha

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<sup>19</sup> <https://www.facebook.com/AldeiasPortugal/posts/280295085419945>



## **The History of Alquerque-12. Remaining countries. Volume II.**

Alquerque set in the window of the prison and the stones that were used in Visigothic Islamic fortification.



**Former prison of Juromenha**  
**Photo: Courtesy (c) of Bluesence**

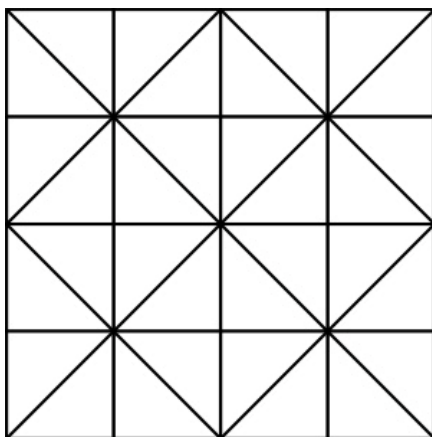


**Luis Lobato de Faria**

## **The History of Alquerque-12. Remaining countries. Volume II.**

### **Alquerque-12 in the monastery San Francisco at Elvas of the province Alto Alentejo.**

The researchers of the Projecto Raia Alentejana located an Alquerque-12 drawing in Elvas in San Francisco Convent<sup>20</sup> that presently is the actual Municipal Historical Archive of Elvas.



The first foundation of the convent of San Francisco in Elvas dates from 1518. However, its location did not meet the monks' requirements because of the unhealthy environment in which they found themselves. The current building had its construction started in 1591 when D. Fernando da Silva and his wife D. Beatriz de Brito donated much of their land. Situated on an elevation along with the Mulberry Aqueduct, the convent became ever harassed in time of war and was even seen by some as a military obstacle to the city. On this side, the enemy could come near without being seen and even settle there to attack the city. This happened in 1658 and 1659 when

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<sup>20</sup> <http://faria100.wix.com/proj-raia-alentejana#!projects-in-development/c1qmb>

## **The History of Alquerque-12. Remaining countries. Volume II.**

the Spaniards occupied it for that purpose and also in the beginning of the XIX century during the French invasion. The artillery of the square leaves the building several times in disrepair reason was often the target of reconstructions. The convent of San Francisco de Elvas was finally vacated in 1834 by the Law of Expropriation of property of religious orders, and soon in 1842 allocated to a Public Cemetery. The whole convent suffered rehabilitation works since 2006. Today it is occupied by the Municipal Historical Archive of Elvas.



**Convent of San Francisco, the current Municipal Historical  
Archive of Elvas**

[http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Elvas\\_-\\_Convento\\_de\\_S%C3%A3o\\_Francisco.JPG](http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Elvas_-_Convento_de_S%C3%A3o_Francisco.JPG)

Photo: Darwinius

(Image of: PHGCOM/Wikimedia Commons/GNU Free Documentation License, Version 1.2 or any later/Creative Commons Attribution-Share Alike 3.0 Unported, 2.5 Generic, 2.0 Generic and 1.0 Generic)

## **The History of Alquerque-12. Remaining countries. Volume II.**

### **Alquerque-12 in the castle of Vila Viçosa, presently archaeological Museum, of the province Alto Alentejo.**

Visitors can observe in the Archaeological Museum<sup>21</sup> of the village Vila Viçosa an alquerque-12 drawing that previously came from the village's castle.



**An Alquerque-12 in the castle of Vila Viçosa  
Photo: Courtesy of (c) <http://mat.fc.ul.pt>**

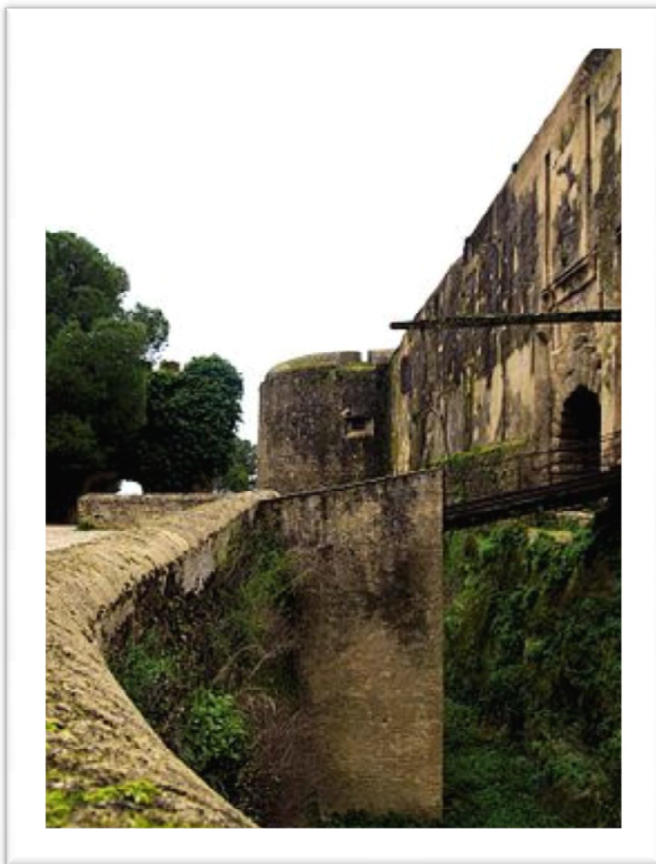
The village Vila Viçosa received from D. Afonso III (1248-1279) its latest leasehold letter on June 5, 1270. This date was the beginning for the construction of its castle, to which his

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<sup>21</sup> Photos in the exposition of boardgames in other times “Pedras que Jogam”, 29 April to 23 June 2004, organized by Adelaide Carreira – Departamento de Matemática da Faculdade de Ciências da Universidade de Lisboa. Edite Alberto, Lídia Fernandes – Museum da Cidade da Câmara Municipal de Lisboa.  
<http://es.scribd.com/doc/118247986/Pedras-Que-Jogam>, pp. 83-87.

## **The History of Alquerque-12. Remaining countries. Volume II.**

son and successor, D. Dinis (1279-1325) effectively boosted the finishing of its construction.



**The Castle of Vila Viçosa of the province of Alto Alentejo**

<http://pt.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ficheiro:VilaVicosaCastle.jpg>

Photo: Rui Ornelas

(Image of: PHGCOM/Wikimedia Commons/GNU Free Documentation License, Version 1.2 or any later/Creative Commons Attribution-Share Alike 3.0 Unported, 2.5 Generic, 2.0 Generic and 1.0 Generic)

## **The History of Alquerque-12. Remaining countries. Volume II.**

### **Alquerque-12 on the floor entrance in the Church Nossa Senhora da Graça at Évora of the province Alto Alentejo.**

The Museum of the City of Lisbon showed varios photos of alquerque boards on a folder, among them the game of Alquerque of twelve, on the floor entrance in the Church Nossa Senhora da Graça at Évora<sup>22</sup>.



**Photo: Courtesy of (c) <http://mat.fc.ul.pt>**

This church was built in Évora's heyday, during the reign of João III (1521-1557). Columns and large stone rosettes flank

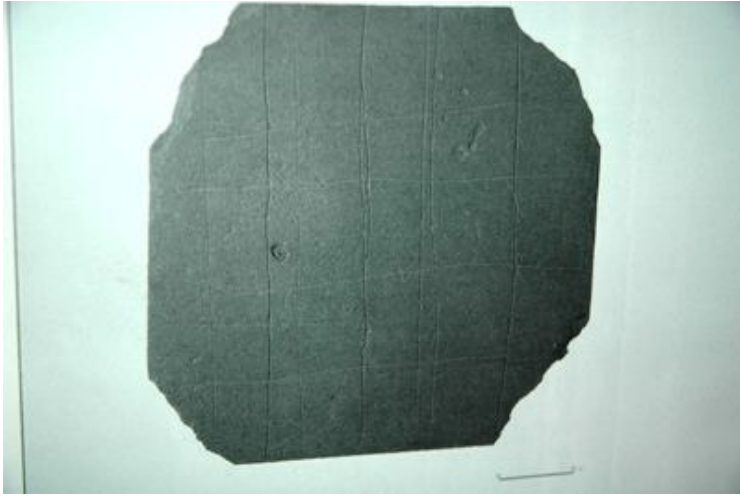
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<sup>22</sup> Photos in the exposition of boardgames in other times “Pedras que Jogam”, 29 April to 23 June 2004, organized by Adelaide Carreira – Departamento de Matemática da Faculdade de Ciencias dea Universidad de Lisboa. Edite Alberto, Lídia Fernandes – Museum da Cidade da Câmara Municipal de Lisboa.  
<http://es.scribd.com/doc/118247986/Pedras-Que-Jogam>, pp. 37-39.



## **The History of Alquerque-12. Remaining countries. Volume II.**

the central window shaft, and ponderously neoclassical columns support the lower level. The church can be viewed only from the outside.



**Game of Cardeira**  
**Photo: Manuel Calado<sup>23</sup>**

It deals about an isolated finding (Monte da Cardeira-2). The author considers it "Roman or later". The place is very close to a necropolis of the Iron Age (Monte da Cardeira).

In this table, it is seen that the players redesigned the original 5x5 board by another one of 5x5.

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<sup>23</sup> "Tabuleiro de jogo da Cardeira" A photograph taken from the book "Carta Arqueológica de Alandroal" of Manuel Calado (p. 34; fig. 7).

**The History of Alquerque-12. Remaining countries.  
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**The Church Nossa Senhora da Graça  
Courtesy (c) of Paulo Moreira**



## **The History of Alquerque-12. Remaining countries. Volume II.**

### **The drawing of alquerque-12 at Travesso do Sertório at Évora of the province Alto Alentejo.**

Visitors can view an alquerque-12 "Holes" drawing on the floor of a raised walkway to the street "Travessa de Sertório, opposite Number 3, leading to a water box from the aqueducts of Évora<sup>24</sup>.



**The Alquerque-12 drawing at Travesso do Sertório  
Photo: Courtesy of (c) <http://mat.fc.ul.pt>**

What we know is that the Aqueduct "Agua de Prata" is located in the Portuguese town of Évora. It was inaugurated on March 28, 1537, after six years of work led by the royal architect Francisco de Arruda.

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<sup>24</sup> Photos in the exposition of boardgames in other times "Pedras que Jogam", 29 April to 23 June 2004, organized by Adelaide Carreira – Departamento de Matemática da Faculdade de Ciências da Universidade de Lisboa. Edite Alberto, Lídia Fernandes – Museum da Cidade da Câmara Municipal de Lisboa.  
<http://es.scribd.com/doc/118247986/Pedras-Que-Jogam>, pp. 40-43.

## **The History of Alquerque-12. Remaining countries. Volume II.**



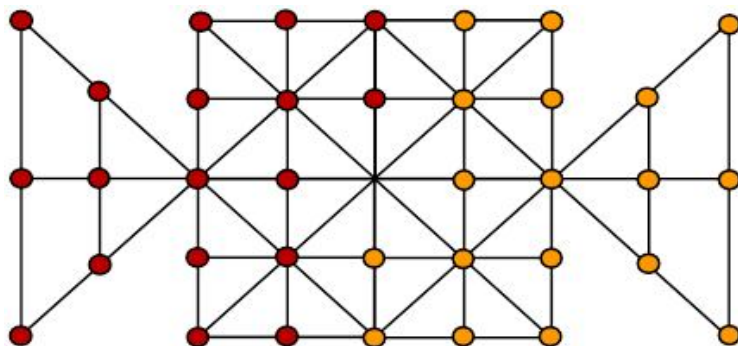
**Travesso do Sertório at Évora**  
**Photo: Courtesy (c) of Ricardo Calhau**

Évora is situated in Alentejo (south of Portugal). It is the main city of the district and capital of Alto Alentejo Province. It was known by the Romans as Liberalitas Julia, and vestiges from this period, walls and rooms still remain. During the barbarian invasions, Évora was under Visigoth rule. It occupied an area defined by a Roman enclosure that had been modified. In 715, the city was conquered by the Muslims. Évora was wrested from the moors by Geraldo the Fearless (Sem Pavor) in 1166 and flourished as one of the most dynamic cities in the Kingdom of Portugal during Middle Ages. The court was resident here for long periods, and Évora became the scene for many royal weddings and a place where many crucial decisions were made. Particularly thriving during the Avis Dynasty (1385-1580), it was once a principal centre for the humanities. The university was founded by the Company of Jesus in 1551.

## **The History of Alquerque-12. Remaining countries. Volume II.**

### **The drawing of a variant of the alquerque-12 at Monsaraz of the province Alto Alentejo.**

This game is unquestionably a variation of the model "alquerque-12, located in the municipality of Monsaraz: one at Reguengos Monsaraz, and others in the region of Alentejo. The municipality of Reguengos de Monsaraz wants to promote this game<sup>25</sup>.



**A variant of the Alquerque-12 game at Monsaraz  
(<http://www.sulinformacao.pt>)**

According to another website, one board is located at the entrance to the "Porta da Vila", another nearest to it, and engraved on a bench in a nearby street, two more in the cemetery of the church of Nossa Senhora del Lagoa, and finally another board was mentioned in the "construction" of the Hall of Audience<sup>26</sup>. The "Proyecto Raia Alentajana" gives us full details about the location of this type of alquerque-12 board in the village<sup>27</sup>.

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<sup>25</sup> <http://www.sulinformacao.pt/2012/01/monsaraz-quer-divulgar-jogo-milenar-do-alquerque-que-esta-presente-nas-lajes-da-vila/>

<sup>26</sup> <http://shoppingspirit.pt/2012/02/06/reguengos-vai-dinamizar-o-alquerque/>

<sup>27</sup> <http://faria100.wix.com/alquerque#!alquerque-em-monsaraz/cuy0>

## **The History of Alquerque-12. Remaining countries. Volume II.**



**Locations of the Alquerque-12 board in Monsaraz<sup>28</sup>**

### **1.- Bank in the Rua Direita towards the Castle**



**Alquerque-12 in Rue Direita**

**Photo: Courtesy of (c) <http://faria100.wix.com/alquerque>**

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<sup>28</sup> <http://faria100.wix.com/alquerque#!alquerque-em-monsaraz/cuy0>

**The History of Alquerque-12. Remaining countries.  
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**Rua Direita towards the Castle**  
**Photo: Courtesy of (c) Andrew Aitken**

**2.- Hall Building of Audience**



**Alquerque-12 in the Hall Building of Audience**  
**Photo: Courtesy of (c) <http://faria100.wix.com/alquerque>**

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**Building of Audience**  
**Photo: Courtesy of (c) [www.celtiberia.net](http://www.celtiberia.net)**

**3.- Churchyard of the Church of Nossa Senhora de Lagoa**



**Alquerque-12 at Nossa Senhora de Lagoa**  
**Photo: Courtesy of (c) <http://faria100.wix.com/alquerque>**



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**4.- Churchyard of the Church of Nossa Senhora de Lagoa**



With respecto to the second alquerque-12 drawing in the Churchyard, here the board is of a much better preservation.



**Nossa Senhora da Logao a Monsaraz  
Photo: Courtesy of (c) Ronan Smits**

## **The History of Alquerque-12. Remaining countries. Volume II.**

### **5.- Bank near the gate of the village**

Near the gate of the village we can observe even another variant, namely that one of a holes' alquerque-12 game.



**View of this alquerque-12 holes' drawing near the gate**  
**Photo: Courtesy of (c) <http://faria100.wix.com/alquerque>**



**One of the gates at Monsaraz**  
**Photo: Courtesy of (c) Jorge Ribeiro**



## **The History of Alquerque-12. Remaining countries. Volume II.**

**The drawing of an alquerque-12 reused in the contruction of the Bullring, inside the Medieval Castle of Monseraz of the province Alto Alentejo.**



Another drawing of an alquerque-12 board was found inside the Bullring of the Medieval Castle of Monseraz. This fact is again a proof that people in Monseraz actively played the alquerque-12 in ancient times.

The town came to prominence when it was captured from the Moors in 1167 by the famous soldier *Geraldo Sem-Pavor* (the Fearless). He then set about improving its fortifications and then gave the castle and village to the military Templar Order.

**The History of Alquerque-12. Remaining countries.  
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**Bullring inside the Castle of Monseraz**  
Courtesy of: (c) <http://aceando.wordpress.com/>



**Bullring inside the Castle of Monseraz**  
Courtesy of: (c) Ricardo Pereira Rodrigues

## **The History of Alquerque-12. Remaining countries. Volume II.**

### **The drawing of a variant of the alquerque-12 at the Fountain of Borba of the province of Alto Alentejo<sup>29</sup>.**

Visitors will observe at least six alquerque-12 drawings on the wall of the fountain of Borba. Some of them are in bad state.



**The Alquerque-12 at the Fontain of Borba  
Photo: Courtesy of (c) <http://mat.fc.ul.pt>**

Borba is a municipality in Portugal with a total area of 145.0 km<sup>2</sup> and a total population of 7,562 inhabitants. The municipality is composed of 4 parishes and is located in the District of Évora.

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<sup>29</sup> Photos in the exposition of boardgames in other times “Pedras que Jogam”, 29 April to 23 June 2004, organized by Adelaide Carreira – Departamento de Matemática da Faculdade de Ciências da Universidade de Lisboa. Edite Alberto, Lídia Fernandes – Museum da Cidade da Câmara Municipal de Lisboa.  
<http://es.scribd.com/doc/118247986/Pedras-Que-Jogam>, pp. 22-25.

## **The History of Alquerque-12. Remaining countries. Volume II.**

We know that it was from 1302 when King D. Dinis granted statutory letter to Borba that this village began to feel prosperous times. This is the approximative date of the construction of the castle, built to defend its border area with Castile.

The fountain (Fonte das Bicas) was built in 1781. Therefore, experts think that the various alquerque-12 drawings should be realized slightly later than this date. Perhaps in the first half of the XIX century. This fountain was dedicated to the Monarchs D. Maria I and D. Pedro III when they visited this village. Since 1910 it is a national monument.



**The fountain of Borba**  
**Photo: Courtesy of (c) João Almeida**

## **The History of Alquerque-12. Remaining countries. Volume II.**

**The drawing of a variant of the alquerque-12 at the Nossa Senhora do Soveral at Borba of the province of Alto Alentejo<sup>30</sup>.**

Visitors can observe an alquerque-12 drawing on the floor of the Mother Church of Borba (Church Nossa Senhora do Soveral or Nossa Senhora das Neves) at the right side of the entry behind the wind-guard).



**Alquerque-12 nearby the church of "Nossa Senhora do Soveral"  
Photo: Courtesy of (c) <http://mat.fc.ul.pt>**

The original church, built in 1260, stood inside the castle. In 1420, D. Fernão Rodrigues de Sequeira built a new church at its present location. In 1560, Cardinal D. Henry had to rebuild

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<sup>30</sup> Photos in the exposition of boardgames in other times “Pedras que Jogam”, 29 April to 23 June 2004, organized by Adelaide Carreira – Departamento de Matemática da Faculdade de Ciências da Universidade de Lisboa. Edite Alberto, Lídia Fernandes – Museum da Cidade da Câmara Municipal de Lisboa.  
<http://es.scribd.com/doc/118247986/Pedras-Que-Jogam>, pp. 26-28.

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the current church, following the model of the Church of St Anthony of Évora.



**The church of "Nossa Senhora do Soveral" at Borba  
Photo: Courtesy of (c) Raia Alentejo**



## **The History of Alquerque-12. Remaining countries. Volume II.**

### **The drawing of Alquerque-12 in Paços de D. Dinis at Estremoz of the province of Alto Alentejo<sup>31</sup>.**

The alquerque-12 is situated in the bulkheads, or sections, the arches that exist in the building of the old Town Hall, also known by Paços D. Dinis. It is, however, the old medieval entry corresponding to the courtroom.



**The alquerque-12 holes board of Paços de D. Dinis  
Photo: Courtesy of (c) <http://mat.fc.ul.pt>**

This building operated as the Sala de Audiencias of King Dinis in the 14th century. It is currently a gallery with temporary exhibitions.

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<sup>31</sup> Photos in the exposition of boardgames in other times “Pedras que Jogam”, 29 April to 23 June 2004, organized by Adelaide Carreira – Departamento de Matemática da Faculdade de Ciências da Universidade de Lisboa. Edite Alberto, Lídia Fernandes – Museum da Cidade da Câmara Municipal de Lisboa.  
<http://es.scribd.com/doc/118247986/Pedras-Que-Jogam>, pp. 31-36.

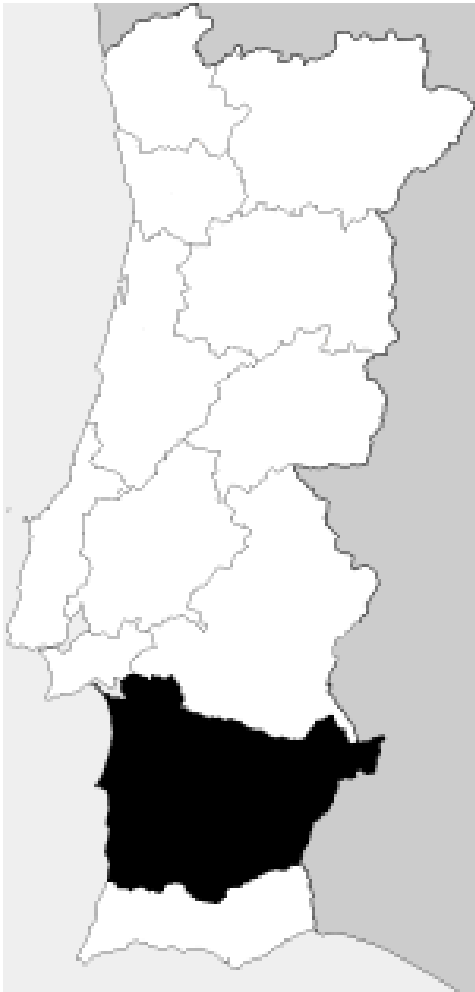


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**Paços de D. Dinis**  
**Photo: Courtesy (c) of Georges Jansoone**

**PROVINCIA OF BAIXO ALENTEJO**



## **The History of Alquerque-12. Remaining countries. Volume II.**

### **The drawing of Alquerque-12 in the Mother Church of Safara at Moura of the province of Baixo Alentejo<sup>32</sup>.**

Tourists will notice a board of the alquerque-12 game in the doorway side (north side) and two bases of the game in the main door of the Mother church (West).



**The alquerque-12 board in the Mother church of Safara  
Photo: Courtesy of (c) <http://mat.fc.ul.pt>**

The Safara Church is a Catholic church and parish center located in Safara (Beja, southern Portugal), dedicated to Our Lady of the Assumption (in Portuguese, Nossa Senhora da Assunção).

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<sup>32</sup> Photos in the exposition of boardgames in other times “Pedras que Jogam”, 29 April to 23 June 2004, organized by Adelaide Carreira – Departamento de Matemática da Faculdade de Ciências da Universidade de Lisboa. Edite Alberto, Lúcia Fernandes – Museum da Cidade da Câmara Municipal de Lisboa.  
<http://es.scribd.com/doc/118247986/Pedras-Que-Jogam>, pp. 77-79.

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It was built around 1500. However, it was not entirely completed until 1602. Although the original project coincides with the reign of Manuel I of Portugal, only the columns supporting decks correspond with the "Manueline" style. Currently there is a pending an application for the declaration as a national monument.

It has three naves summing up 13 meters width and 27 in length, whose columns supporting Gothic arches. On both sides of the main entrance are separate columns of integrated order, made in marble like the eardrum.



**The Mother church of Safara**  
**Photo: Courtesy of (c) Vitor Oliveira**

## **PROVINCE OF ALGARVE**



## **The History of Alquerque-12. Remaining countries. Volume II.**

### **Alquerque-12 in Silves (Portugal).**

An alquerque drawing from the XIII century is today in the Municipal Museum of Archeology in Silves of the province Algarve. It came from the Castel of Silves<sup>33</sup>.



**The alquerque-12 drawing of Silves**  
**Photo: Exposition virtual of © <http://mat.fc.ul.pt>**

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<sup>33</sup> Photo in the exposition of boardgames in other times “Pedras que Jogam”, 29 April to 23 June 2004, organized by Adelaide Carreira – Departamento de Matemática da Faculdade de Ciências da Universidade de Lisboa. Edite Alberto, Lídia Fernandes – Museum da Cidade da Câmara Municipal de Lisboa.  
<http://es.scribd.com/doc/118247986/Pedras-Que-Jogam>, p.97

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After 713, when the Moors invaded Iberia, Silves became part of the Umayyad kingdom of Córdoba under the Arabic name of *Shilb*. The Castle of Silves is a castle in the civil parish of Silves in the municipality of Silves in the Portuguese Algarve. Built between the 8th and 13th century, the castle is one of the best preserved Moorish fortifications in Portugal. This extremely important Moorish fortress resulting in its classification as a National Monument in 1910.



**Castle of Silves**  
**Photo: Courtesy (c) of David Major**

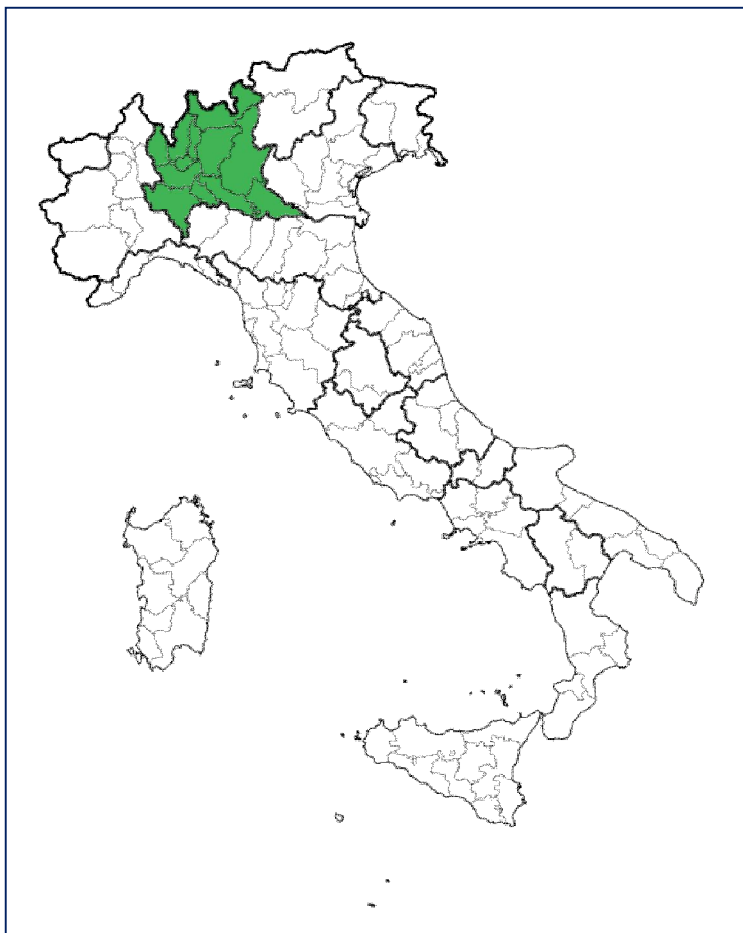
The city was finally taken from the last Muslim king Ibn Afan by Paio Peres Correia, Grand-Master of the Order of Santiago in 1242, after the Alentejo and most of the coast had already fallen in 1238. The great mosque was changed into Silves Cathedral. Apparently the alquerque-12 drawing, found in this castle, is of the XIII century.



# ITALY



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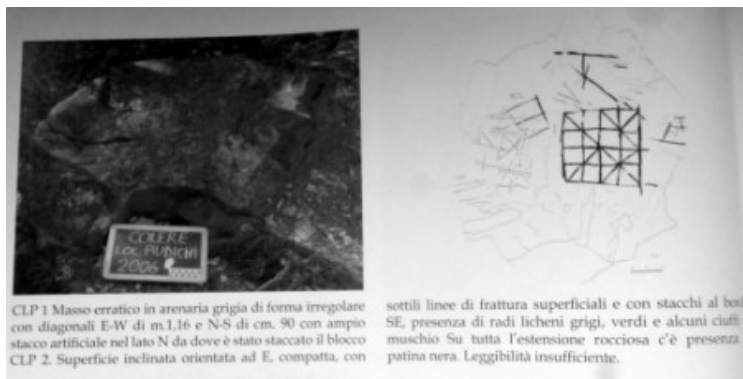


**Region of Lombardy**

## The History of Alquerque-12. Remaining countries. Volume II.

### The Alquerque-12 drawing at Colere, in the province of Bergamo, region of Lombardy.

An Alquerque-12 (italian: il "filetto" and "l'arquerque" or "tria multipla"). tria multiple) drawing was found at the green top "Cima verde" of Colere, near to Vilminore-di-Scalve, in the province of Bergamo<sup>34</sup>.



**Colere** is a *comune* (municipality) in the Province of Bergamo in the Italian region of Lombardy, located about 90 km northeast of Milan and about 45 km northeast of Bergamo. As of 31 December 2004, it had a population of 1,147 and an area of 18.8 km². Colere borders the following municipalities: Angolo Terme, Azzone, Castione della Presolana, Rovetta, Vilminore di Scalve.

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<sup>34</sup> **GRASSI, Maurilio** (2007). *Messaggi dalle Rocce. L'arte rupestre della Valle di Scalve*. Edizioni del centro Cleto & Faenna. Cited by **UBERTI, Marisa** (2012). *The Merels board enigma. With the worldwide census of Merels boards*.

## The History of Alquerque-12. Remaining countries. Volume II.



**The village Colere**  
**Photo: Courtesy of (c) Fabio Stefanini**

The engravings in the four villages of the Scalve valley. Incised boulders are scattered everywhere on the territory of Scalve. But some areas are particularly interesting because of the type and concentration of the figures imprinted.

The area of Schilpario has an extensive series of engravings of historical epoch easy to understand. The town of Vilminore is affected by symbolism, very varied and sometimes difficult to interpret, although this element makes the area exceptionally attractive. With the high concentration of boulders engraved in the area of Cima Green, Colere, appears to be a site of rock art of considerable interest.

## **The History of Alquerque-12. Remaining countries. Volume II.**

### **The drawing of alquerque-12 in the castle Colleoni at Malpaga in the province of Bergamo, region of Lombardy.**

Researchers found an alquerque-12 drawing on slabs of the open galery<sup>35</sup>. The alquerque-12 is engraved on a slab that covers the wall of the staircase leading to the ground floor.



#### **Alquerque-12 on a slab in the castle Colleoni**

**Photo: Courtesy of (c) <http://www.centro-studi-triplice-cinta.com>**

The Malpaga Castle (Italian: Castello di Malpaga) is a castle in the communal territory of Cavernago, a village in the province of Bergamo, northern Italy. Experts consider Malpaga Castle one of the most interesting medieval constructions in the Bergamo area thanks to its deep-rooted historical and architectural significance and beautiful cycle of

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<sup>35</sup> **UBERTI, Marisa** (2012). The Merels board enigma. With the worldwide census of Merels boards.

## **The History of Alquerque-12. Remaining countries. Volume II.**

frescoes. Built in Medieval times this castle was left in ruins after many raids in the 1440's. Bartolomeo Colleoni, on 29 April 1456, purchased the ruins of a castle in Malpaga, not far from the river Serio, and immediately started building a strong fortress. In the meantime he made his residence in Martinengo, a town of considerable importance and where a castle offered him a suitable residence. The purpose of buying this castle was so that Colleoni could have a main stay for his ever-growing rule within the area. After becoming a General in Chief of the Venetian Republic, Colleoni decided to elect Malpaga as his personal residence. They celebrate the visit of King Christian I of Denmark in 1474 and the sumptuous hospitality given him by Bartolomeo Colleoni, including banquets, hunting expeditions and tournaments.



**The castle Colleoni at Malpaga  
Photo: Courtesy of (c) Roberto Rota**

## **The History of Alquerque-12. Remaining countries. Volume II.**

**The drawing of alquerque-12 in the Bell Tower of Vilminore di Scalve, province of Bergamo, region of Lombardy.**

Visitors can observe two alquerque-12 drawings on blocks in the bell tower of the parish church Santa Maria Assunta and San Pietro of Vilminore that dates of the XIX century.



**Alquerque-12 drawing in the parish church of Vilminore di  
Scalve**

**Photo: Courtesy of (c) <http://www.centro-studi-triplice-cinta.com>**

Most likely these blocks are reused ones that came from the demolished medieval church of St. Mary<sup>36</sup>.

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<sup>36</sup> **UBERTI, Marisa** (2012). The Merels board enigma. With the worldwide census of Merels boards, p. 261.



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**Alquerque-12 drawing in the parish church of Vilminore di  
Scalve**

**Photo: Courtesy of (c) <http://www.centro-studi-triplice-cinta.com>**

Vilminore di Scalve is a *comune* (municipality) in the Province of Bergamo in the Italian region of Lombardy, located about 90 km northeast of Milan and about 45 km northeast of Bergamo. As of 31 December 2010, it had a population of 1,532 and an area of 40.9 km<sup>2</sup>. The municipality of Vilminore di Scalve contains the *frazioni* (subdivisions, mainly villages and hamlets) Vilmaggiore, S. Andrea, Dezzolo, Bueggio, Nona, Pezzolo, Pianezza, and Teveno.

**The History of Alquerque-12. Remaining countries.  
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**The parish church Santa Maria Assunta and San Pietro  
Photo: Courtesy of (c) marinonimorgan.com**

## **The History of Alquerque-12. Remaining countries. Volume II.**

### **The Alquerque-12 drawing at Zogno (Bembrana Valley), in the province of Bergamo, region of Lombardy.**

In the museum of the Valley (Museo della Valle Brembana di Zogno), in the room of the "Tavern", visitors will find two boards, with the chape of a chess board. It is quite well possible that these two boards were the boards used for playing the Latrunculorum game. On of this chess boards hangs on the wall and the other is to find on a table.



**Table with a prolonged alquerque-12 drawing  
Photo: Courtesy of (c) Museo della Valle Brembana di Zogno**

In this museum visitors will also find a prolonged alquerque-12 board on the same table where they will find one of the chess boards.

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**Museo della valle at Zogno**

**Photo: Courtesy of (c) Giovanni Bergamo**

Val Brembana is a valley in Lombardy, northern Italy. It takes its name from the river crossing it, the Brembo. The Brembana Valley is also an extraordinary place rich of art and traditions. The great wealth of the Brembana Valley museums deserves to be better known and appreciate because of its real value and the care in the conservation of the manufactured articles. Indeed, it's remarkable the care with which all the villages of the Valley gather, preserve and appreciate their heritage. Some of those museums (above all the two museums of Zogno) were built thanks to the effort of private citizens that spent industriously their time, their energies and their resources in the research of objects of their land and of their history, that could testify their cultural identity. The Bergamo Alps form the valley's northern limits, notably the Tre Signori and Diavolo di Tenda Peaks, while at south lies the plain of Bergamo.

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### **The drawing of alquerque-12 at Naquane, province of Brescia, region of Lombardy.**

Visitors can find a large alquerque drawing at the National Park of Rock Engravings of Naquane in Capo di ponte of the Val Camonica. On Rock number 50 an alquerque is engraved with very thin lines, in an inclined position<sup>37</sup>. Besides, there is a deeply carved Nine Men's Morris. Drawings were made with different hands and probably in different times.



**The large alquerque drawing of Naquane number 50**  
**Photo: Courtesy of (c) <http://www.centro-studi-triplice-cinta.com>**

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<sup>37</sup> **UBERTI, Marisa** (2012). The Merels board enigma. With the worldwide census of Merels boards, p. 262.



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The National Park of Engraved Rocks of Naquane (475 m high) at Capo di Ponte was created in 1955 by the Archaeological Superintendence of Lombardy, realizing an old dream of veteran pioneers, Laeng an Bonafini. It is unique in Italy. Inside you find 104 engraved rocks: "the masterpieces of Iron Age Rock Art". Best known are the rocks n. 50, 1, 35, 57... and going on with beautiful rock waves polished by the glacier.

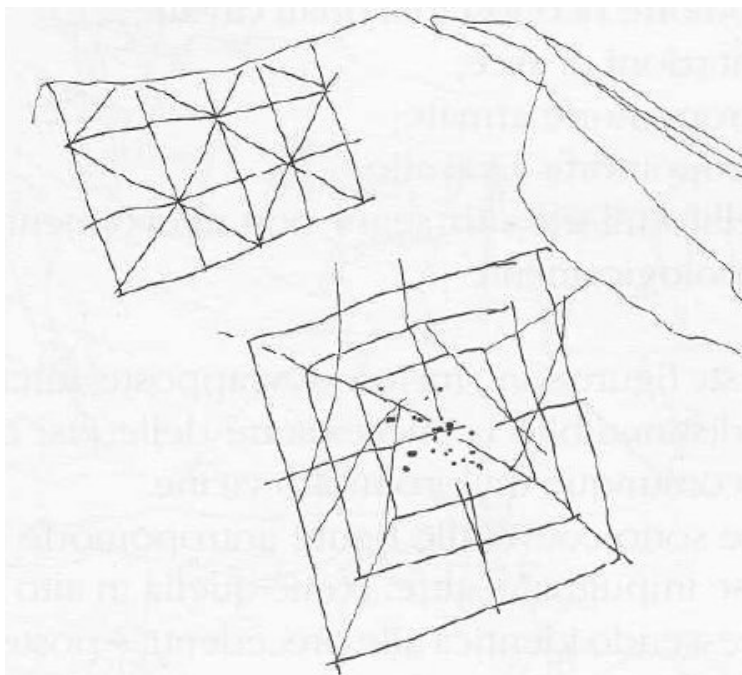


**Capo di ponte**  
**Photo: Courtesy of (c) Martin Sauter**

## **The History of Alquerque-12. Remaining countries. Volume II.**

**The drawing of alquerque-12 in the Camonica Valley at Pian Cagno, in the province of Brescia, (Bedolina, Pescarzo), region of Lombardy.**

Apparently an alquerque-12 was drawn on a graffiti belonging to the Celts in the Camonica Valley at Pian Cagno, in the north of Italy. If this is the case then the graffiti is attributable to a period as from the 4th century B.C.



**Alquerque-12 drawing in the Carmonica Valley at Pian Cagno**  
**Source: Courtesy of © Italo Pucci<sup>38</sup>**

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<sup>38</sup> <http://www.iisl.genova.it/ricerca/images/Giochi%20sulla%20pietra%20Genova.pdf>



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**The Camonica Valley at Pian Cagno**

[http://it.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Piancagno\\_esine.jpg](http://it.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Piancagno_esine.jpg)

Photo: Luca Giarelli

(Image of: PHGCOM/Wikimedia Commons/GNU Free Documentation License, Version 1.2 or any later/Creative Commons Attribution-Share Alike 3.0 Unported, 2.5 Generic, 2.0 Generic and 1.0 Generic)

Around the 3rd century B.C., the Celtic Gauls arrived in Italy. Coming from Transalpine Gaul, they settled in the Po plain and came in touch with the Camunian population. Some of the petroglyphs in Valcamonica with figures of Celtic deities such as Kernunnos attest this Gaulish presence. During the latest century, there is a lot written about the Camonica Valley at Pian Cagno<sup>39</sup>.

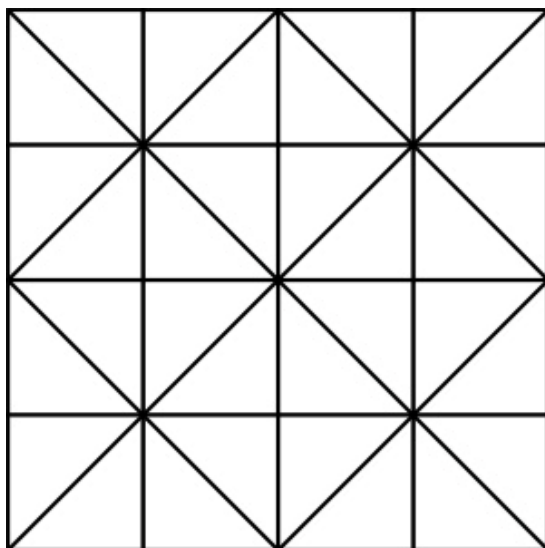
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<sup>39</sup> Bibliografia sull'arte rupestre e sui contesti e ritrovamenti preistorici e protostorici della Valle Camonica. Cinquantenario di fondazione del Parco Nazionale delle Incisioni Rupestri 1955-2005. Capo di Ponte 2005. Sito del Patrimonio Mondiale UNESCO n. 94 "Arte Rupestre della Valle Camonica"

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**The drawing of alquerque-12 in the Cathedral of Crema,  
in the province of Cremona that belongs to the region of  
Lombardy.**

An Alquerque-12 drawing was found on a block in the masonry of the upper gallery of the Cathedral of Crema<sup>40</sup>. Only half of the drawing can be seen since the block was cut.



The Crema Cathedral of Santa Maria in Crema, northern Italy is dedicated to the Assumption of the Virgin Mary. It is the seat of the Bishop of Crema. What we know of this cathedral is that the first cathedral in the town was destroyed by Frederick Barbarossa in 1160. Thereafter, a new building was begun in 1185. However this construction was paralyzed in

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<sup>40</sup> **UBERTI, Marisa** (2012). The Merels board enigma. With the worldwide census of Merels boards, p. 266.

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1212 for many years. The building began again in 1284 but in Gothic style. The church was finished in 1340, with the addition in 1385 of a lengthened apse and a crypt.



**Catedral of Crema**

<http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:DuomoCrema.jpg>

Photo: Michele Scandelli

(Image of: PHGCOM/Wikimedia Commons/GNU Free Documentation License, Version 1.2 or any later/Creative Commons Attribution-Share Alike 3.0 Unported, 2.5 Generic, 2.0 Generic and 1.0 Generic)

Some authorities trace the foundation of the town Crema back to the 4th century CE, when Milan was capital of the Western Roman Empire. According to another version, it was instead an even more ancient Celtic or Etruscan settlement<sup>41</sup>.

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<sup>41</sup> **TERNI, Pietro da** (1964). *Historia di Crema 570-1557*, a cura di M. e C. Verga, Crema.

## **The History of Alquerque-12. Remaining countries. Volume II.**

### **The drawing of alquerque-12 in the Castle Visconteo at Pavia, in the province of Pavia, region of Lombardy.**

In this castle three alquerque-12 drawings were found in different places<sup>42</sup>. The first one seems to be a doubtful alquerque-12 drawing.



**First Alquerque-12 drawing in the Castle Visconteo  
Photo: Courtesy of (c) [www.centro-studi-triplice-cinta.com](http://www.centro-studi-triplice-cinta.com)**

The Castle Visconteo<sup>43</sup> is a castle built in the town of Pavia by Galeazzo II Visconti in 1360, soon after the taking of the city.

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<sup>42</sup> **UBERTI, Marisa** (2012). The Merels board enigma. With the worldwide census of Merels boards, pp. 266-267.

<sup>43</sup> **MAGENTA, Carlo** (1883). I Visconti e gli Sforza nel castello di Pavia e le loro attinenze con la Certosa e la storia cittadina, Milano, U. Hoepli.

## **The History of Alquerque-12. Remaining countries. Volume II.**

The castle used to be the main residence of the Visconti family, while the political capital of the state was Milan. On the fourth covering slab of the parapet of the gallery on the second floor is engraved this very deteriorated alquerque-12 drawing. This is the most ancient parapets of the upper galleries.



**Second Alquerque-12 drawing in the Castle Visconteo**  
**Photo: Courtesy of (c) [www.centro-studi-triplice-cinta.com](http://www.centro-studi-triplice-cinta.com)**

There is a large park north of the castle including Certosa of Pavia which had been founded in the year 1396 and had been used as a private chapel for the powerful family. During the famous Battle of Pavia, between the French and Spanish in 1525, the northern wing of the Visconti castle was destroyed by French artillery. The battle itself took place in the park that connected the castle with the Certosa of Pavia a few miles away. When the Spanish took up residence in the Castle, they

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did some restoration work as shown by the arms of Spanish families in the halls on the first floor of the East.



**Third Alquerque-12 drawing in the Castle Visconteo**  
**Photo: Courtesy of (c) [www.centro-studi-triplice-cinta.com](http://www.centro-studi-triplice-cinta.com)**

On the first slab of the parapet of the porch on the second floor is engraved this alquerque-12 drawing.

Pavia<sup>44</sup> is a town and *comune* of south-western Lombardy, northern Italy, 35 kilometres (22 mi) south of Milan on the lower Ticino river near its confluence with the Po. It is the capital of the province of Pavia. It has a population of c. 71,000. The city was also the capital of the Kingdom of the Lombards from 568 to 774.

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<sup>44</sup> HUDSON, Peter (1987). Pavia: l'evoluzione urbanistica di una capitale altomedievale.



## **The History of Alquerque-12. Remaining countries. Volume II.**

The easiest way to reach Pavia is by train since the city is connected to many destinations in Lombardy through the regional train line.



**The castle of Visconteo at Pavia**  
**Photo: Courtesy of (c) David Gianfaldoni**

Most cities in Lombardy have direct trains to Pavia a few times every day and tickets are not very expensive either. Another option is to travel by bus. Buses are also quite regular and run a few times a day between Pavia and the other cities in the province. However, the buses coming in from outside the province take very long and are uncomfortable. Driving down to Pavia is also a good option if you rent a car.

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**Aosta Valley**

## **The History of Alquerque-12. Remaining countries. Volume II.**

**The drawing of alquerque at "Vallone delle cime bianche" nearby Ayas (St. Jacques) that belongs to the region Aosta Valley.**

A drawing of a complete alquerque-12 had been discovered recently. It was between the Alpe Mase and Basin Rollin when this drawing, in the summer of 2007, was accidentally discovered on a rock outcrop, located outside the current paths.



**The incomplete alquerque-12 game  
Photo: Courtesy of (c) www.ayastrekkings.it**

Before all in the Alpe Mase and Plan de Rollin, researchers found more drawings on the rocks<sup>45</sup>.

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<sup>45</sup> CASTELLO, P. & S. LEO, S. de (2006). Pietra ollare della Valle d'Aosta: caratterizzazione petrografia di una serie di campioni ed inventario degli affioramenti,

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Although the lines are ver irregular it may be an incomplete ancient alquerque game that was carved on stone throughout Europe and Asia<sup>46</sup>. The village of Saint Jacques belongs to the municipality of Ayas, in the province of Aosta, region Valle d'Aosta. The village of Saint Jacques is 7,02 kilometers far from the same town of Ayas to whom it belongs.



**Alpe Mase and the Valley of Ayas**  
**Photo: Courtesy of Emanuele Lotti**

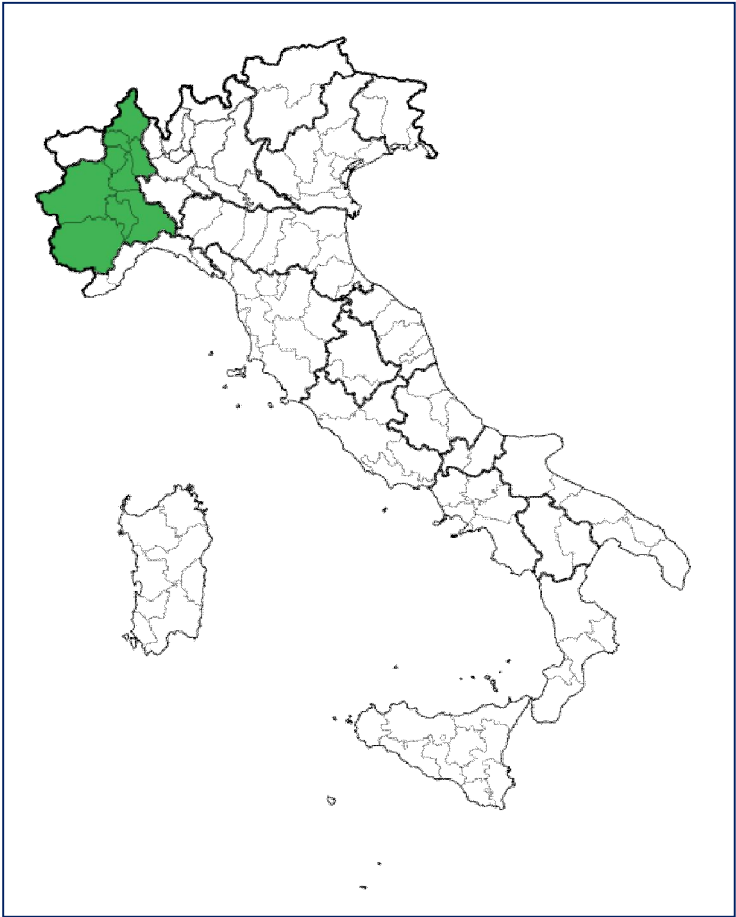
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cave e laboratori, in “BULLETIN D’ETUDES PREHISTORIQUES ET ARCHEOLOGIQUES ALPINES”, numéro spécial consacré aux Actes du XIe Colloque sur les Alpes dans l’Antiquité, Champsec/Val de Bagnes/Valais-Suisse (par les soins de Damien Daudry), pp. 57-59 e 66-71.

**CORTELAZZO, Mauro** (2006). La pietra ollare della Valle d’Aosta. Cave, laboratori e commercio, in IBIDEM, pp. 92-93 e 107.

<sup>46</sup> **GAVAZZI, C. and L.** (1997). Giocare sulla pietra. I giochi nelle incisioni rupestri e nei graffiti in Piemonte, Valle d’Aosta e Liguria, Ivrea 1997, pp. 13, 17-19, 34-36, 66 e 76-77; *L’orso e i suoi fratelli*, a cura di C. GAVAZZI, DOCBI, Biella 2007, pp. 12-13 e 31.

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**Region of Piedmont**

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### **The drawing of alquerque-12 in the Cathedral of Saint Evasio at Casale Monferrato, province of Alessandria, region of Piedmont.**

In the village Casale Monferrato a vertical Alquerque-12 drawing is found on a block inside the atrium of the Cathedral of Saint Evasio<sup>47</sup>.



**The alquerque-12 drawing vertical on a block inside the atrium  
Photo: Courtesy of (c) <http://www.centro-studi-triplice-cinta.com>**

The construction of the Cathedral of Saint Evasio began in the XI and ended in the nineteenth century.

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<sup>47</sup> **ALETTI, C.** (2004). *Tracce del passato: epigrafia, grafica, figurazioni sulla pietra*, in C. Aletti (a cura di), *Graffiti. Iscrizioni e figurazioni incise sulla Pietra da Cantoni*, Villanova Monferrato (AL), pp. 13-80. Cited on pp. 40-41. Cited on pp. 40-41. Taken from **UBERTI, Marisa** (2012). The Merels board enigma. With the worldwide census of Merels boards.



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**The alquerque-12 drawing in the Cathedral of Saint Evasio  
Photo: Courtesy of (c) Kristobalite**

The church of Sant'Evasio became a cathedral with the establishment of the Diocese of Casale in 1474. The Diocese of Casale Monferrato (Latin: *Dioecesis Casalensis*) is a Roman catholic diocese in northwest Italy, a suffragan of the Archdiocese of Vercelli which forms part of the ecclesiastical region of Piedmont. The diocese, which adheres to the Roman Rite, was established on 18 April 1474; in 2004, it had a population of 103,500 of whom 101,200 were baptised. Alceste Catella has been bishop of the diocese since 15 May 2008.

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### **The drawing of alquerque-12 at a Romanesque church in Cella Monte, Alessandria, region of Piedmont.**

The Alquerque is on a lancet window found at the Romanesque church dedicated to the Saints Quirico and Giuditta<sup>48</sup> (1610).



**The alquerque-12 drawing at the church dedicated to the Saints  
Quirico and Giuditta in Cella Monte.**

**Photo: Courtesy of (c) <http://www.centro-studi-triplice-cinta.com>**

Cella Monte is a village in the province of Alessandria in the Italian region of Piedmont, located about 50 km east of Turin and about 25 km northwest of Allessandria. It has roughly 509 residents. Cella Monte borders the following municipalities:

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<sup>48</sup> **ALETTI, C.** (2004). *Tracce del passato: epigrafia, grafica, figurazioni sulla pietra*, in C. Aletto (a cura di), *Graffiti. Iscrizioni e figurazioni incise sulla Pietra da Cantoni*, Villanova Monferrato (AL), pp. 13-80. Cited on pp. 40-41. Taken from **UBERTI, Marisa** (2012). The Merels board enigma. With the worldwide census of Merels boards.

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Frassinello Monferrato, Ottiglio, Ozzano Monferrato, Rosignano Monferrato, and Sala Monferrato.



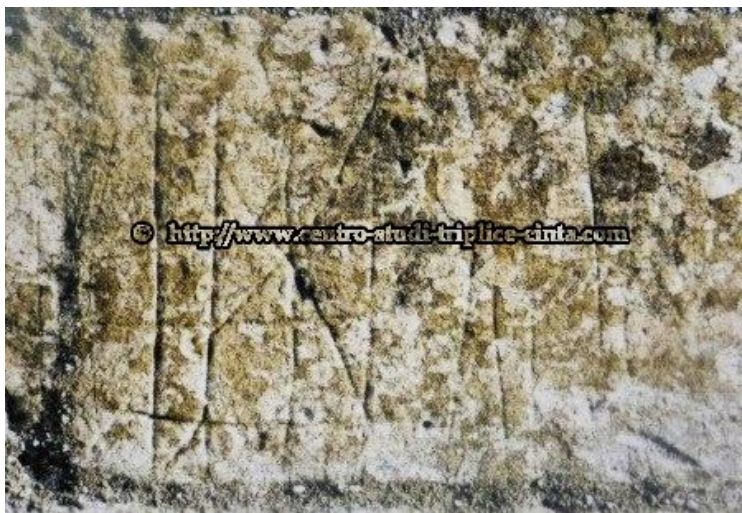
**Parish church dedicated to the Saints Quirico and Giuditta**  
**Photo: Courtesy of (c) Davide Papalini**

The Parish Church dedicated to the Saints Quirico and Giuditta locates at the Vallino square. In 1584, when it was still the parish church of the Saint Quirico, the apostolic visitor Msgr. Carlo Montiglio, took note of the need for a more central parish church. By decrees of the bishop of Tullio, handcart 05.12.1597 and 03.16.1605, related private pre-existing work were channeled for building the new church. The essential structure completed in 1610 was consecrated on 04/18/1633 by Bishop Scipione Agnelli and dedicated to the Saints Quirico and Giuditta Cecilia.

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**The drawing of a vertical alquerque-12 at the church San Michele at Moletto (Ottiglio) in the province of Alessandria that belongs to the region Piedmont.**

A vertical drawing of the alquerque-12 has been described by Aletto at the Church of San Michele at Moletto (Ottiglio) in the province of Alessandria that belongs to the Italian region Piedmon<sup>49</sup>.



**A drawing of the alquerque-12 at the church San Michele  
Photo: Courtesy of (c) <http://www.centro-studi-triplice-cinta.com>**

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<sup>49</sup> **ALETTI, C.** (2004). *Tracce del passato: epigrafia, grafica, figurazioni sulla pietra*, in C. Aletto (a cura di), *Graffiti. Iscrizioni e figurazioni incise sulla Pietra da Cantoni*, Villanova Monferrato (AL), pp. 13-80. Cited on pp. 40-41. Taken from **UBERTI, Marisa** (2012). The Merels board enigma. With the worldwide census of Merels boards.

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The village of Moleto belongs to the municipality of Ottiglio, in the province of Alessandria, region Piemonte. The village of Moleto is 3,42 kilometers far from the town of Ottiglio to whom it belongs. To the municipality of Ottiglio also belong the localities of Avelle (0,88 km), Molino (2,27 km), Pelucchini (2,47 km), Prera (1,87 km).



**The church San Michele at Moleto**  
**Photo: Courtesy of (c) [www.provincia.alessandria.gov.it](http://www.provincia.alessandria.gov.it)**

The church San Michele at Moleto dates before the tenth century. This Romanesque church built in stone by the cantons and dedicated to San Michele, was dismantled in 1968 and transported to its current location from the location of its original location, in order to protect it from possible damage caused by the expansion of quarries.



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**The drawing of a vertical alquerque-12 at the Church of San Germano of the village Ottiglio, in the province of Allesandria that belongs to the region Piedmont.**

The drawing of a vertical alquerque-12 was found on a block near to the Church of San Germano of the village Ottiglio<sup>50</sup>.



**Vertical alquerque-12 at the Chuch of San Germano  
Photo: Courtesy of (c) <http://www.centro-studi-triplice-cinta.com>**

Ottiglio is a municipality in the Province of Alessandria in the Italian region Piedmont, located about 50 km east of Turin and about 25 km northwest of Alessandria. Ottiglio borders the

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<sup>50</sup> **ALETTI, C.** (2004). *Tracce del passato: epigrafia, grafica, figurazioni sulla pietra*, in C. Aleto (a cura di), *Graffiti. Iscrizioni e figurazioni incise sulla Pietra da Cantoni*, Villanova Monferrato (AL), pp. 13-80. Cited on pp. 40-41. Cited on pp. 40-41. Taken from **UBERTI, Marisa** (2012). The Merels board enigma. With the worldwide census of Merels boards.



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following municipalities: Casorzo, Cella Monte, Cereseto, Frassinello Monferrato, Grazzano Badoglio, Moncalvo, Olivola, and Sala Monferrato.

The church of San Germano dates of the XIII century and it is the oldest building in Ottiglio<sup>51</sup>.



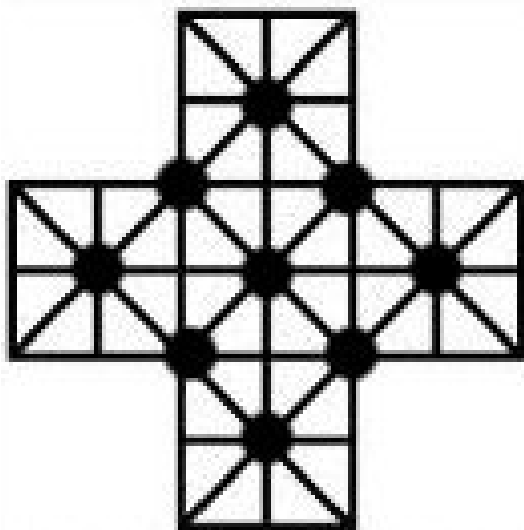
**The Church of San Germano at Ottiglio**  
**Photo: Courtesy of (c) Claudio Guaglia**

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<sup>51</sup> **ALECTO, Charles** (2004). Traces of the past: epigraphy, graphics, figures on the stone," in 'Graffiti. Inscriptions and figures carved on the stone by the cantons', edited by Charles Aleto, Villanova Monferrato (AL).

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**The drawing of a horizontal fox and geese at Forgnengo (Campiglia Cervo) in the province of Biella that belongs to the region of Piedmont.**



People designed, in the past, the game of fox and geese on an irregular stone used as a bench outside a house. It bears the Italian name of “Pietra dei 3 giochi” (Stone of the three games)<sup>52</sup>. Visitors have to go to the Via Roma, number 16 for observing the design. Near to this game, two drawings appear: the games of alquerque-9 and the game of the bear.

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<sup>52</sup> **CARLO, Frottage di & GAVAZZI, Luca** (1997). In “Giocare sulla pietra-I giochi nelle incisioni rupestri e nei graffiti di Piemonte, Valle d’Aosta e Liguria”, Quaderni di Cultura Alpina, Priuli & Verlucca, 1997. Cited by **UBERTI, Marisa** (2012). The Merels board enigma. With the worldwide census of Merels boards.

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Campiglia Cervo is a *commune* (municipality) in the Province of Biella in the Italian region Piedmont, located about 70 km northeast of Turin and about 4 km northwest of Biella. As from 31 December 2004, it had a population of 176 and an area of 11.7 km². It has several divisiones: Valmosca, Forgnengo, Piaro, Gli Ondini, San Giovanni d'Andomo.



**Forgnengo (Campiglia Cervo)**  
**Photo: Courtesy of (c) Miglietta Stefano**

## **The History of Alquerque-12. Remaining countries. Volume II.**

### **Fox and Geese.**

A game known by this name is played with marbles or pegs on a board on which are thirty-three holes, or on the pavement, with holes scraped out of the stones. To play this game there are seventeen pieces called Geese, and another one either larger or distinguished from the Geese by its colour, which is called the Fox. The Fox occupies the centre hole, and the Geese occupy nine holes in front, and four on each side of him. The vacant holes behind are for the Geese and Fox to move in.

The game is for the Geese to shut up the Fox so that he cannot move. All the pieces can be moved from one spot to another in the direction of the lines, but cannot pass over two holes at once. The Geese are not permitted to take the Fox. The Fox's business is to take all, or as many of the Geese as will prevent him from being blockaded. The Fox can take the Geese whenever there is a vacant space behind them, which he passes to, then occupies<sup>53</sup>.

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<sup>53</sup> **GOMME, Alice Bertha** (1894). *Traditional Games of England, Scotland, and Ireland With Tunes, Singing-Rhymes and Methods of Playing etc.* (Complete).

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**The drawing of alquerque-12 on the façade of the church of Saint Pietro at Cherasco, in the province of Cuneo that belongs to the region of Piedmont.**



**Alquerque-12 on the façade of Saint Pietro at Cherasco  
Photo: (c) Courtesy of Ulrich Schädler**

To see the alquerque-12 drawing in the town Cherasco we have to visit the Cathedral of St. Peter (Saint Pietro) that dates of the XIII century. On the left of the left side portal of the front, at half-height and on a reused block of white marble, visitors will observe an alquerque-12 drawing at eye level.<sup>54</sup>

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<sup>54</sup> **UBERTI, Marisa** (2012). The Merels board enigma. With the worldwide census of Merels boards, pág. 250.

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Uberti states: «As far as we know, also two exemplars of alquerque are dated back to the Roman period. They are found on a re-used block of the front of the basilica of San Zeno in Verona (still planked and difficult to examine) and on the cathedral of Cherasco (Cuneo, Italy), but we do not know on which basis the dating has been proposed<sup>55</sup>». So here we need more research now, but also in Italy it is difficult to prove that the alquerque-12 game is of Roman origin.



**The church Saint Pietro at Cherasco**  
**Photo: (c) Courtesy of Jacqueline Poggi**

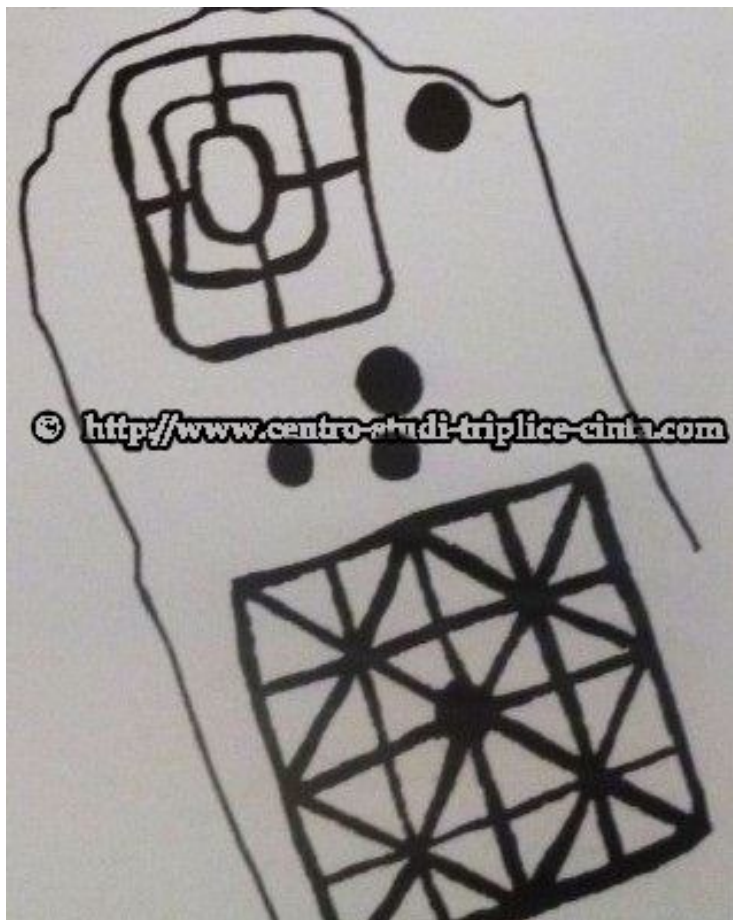
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<sup>55</sup> **UBERTI, Marisa** (2012). The Merels board enigma. With the worldwide census of Merels boards, pág. 49.



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**The drawing of alquerque-12 on a rock of Alpe Torrione  
at Quincinetto, in the province of Turin, region of  
Piedmont.**



**Alquerque-12 on a rock of Alpe Torrione  
Photo: Courtesy of (c) <http://www.centro-studi-triplice-cinta.com>**

## The History of Alquerque-12. Remaining countries. Volume II.

An Alquerque-12 was found in a deserted pasture on a sloping rock hillside overlooking a ravine. It is quite well possible that today this drawing will not exist anymore<sup>56</sup>.

**Quincinetto** is a *commune* (municipality) in the Province of Turin, in the Italian region Piedmont, located about 60 km north of Turin.



**Panorama of the village Quincinetto**  
**Photo: Courtesy of (c) David Schiesher**

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<sup>56</sup> CARLO, Frottage di & GAVAZZI, Luca (1997). *Giocare sulla pietra: i giochi nelle incisioni rupestri e nei graffiti di Piemonte, Valle d'Aosta e Liguria*, 14 ff. Cited by UBERTI, Marisa (2012). *The Merels board enigma. With the worldwide census of Merels boards.*

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The drawing of 3 alquerque-12 on a stone of Merler. A rock completely covered with engravings at Antrona Schieranco, in the province of Verbano-Cusio-Ossola, region of Piedmont.



Three alquerque-12 drawings on a rock

Photo: Courtesy of (c) <http://www.centro-studio-triplice-cinta.com>

The discovery of the presence of several petroglyphs on a boulder situated in upper Valle Antrona dates back to 1986. The petroglyphs were found on a rock known as "pietra del merler"<sup>57</sup> that is the name used to indicate the Nine Men's Morris game. The rock is situated near Alpe Cama superiore

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<sup>57</sup> COPIATTI, Fabio & GIULI, Alberto de (1997). Sentieri antichi. Itinerari archeologici nel Verbano, Cusio, Ossola. Edizioni Grossi - Domodossola. Cited by UBERTI, Marisa (2012). The Merels board enigma. With the worldwide census of Merels boards.

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(1830 m), immediately below the summer pasture. It enjoys a dominating position over the valley as it is often the case for engraved rocks. Its surface is totally covered with petroglyphs, including 3 alquerque-12.



**The park of the Antrona Valley  
Photo: Courtesy of (c) Tignoelino**

Antrona Schieranco is a village (municipality) in the Province of Verbano-Cusio-Ossola, in the Italian region Piedmont, located about 120 km northeast of Turin and about 35 km northwest of Verbania, in a branch of the Val d'Ossola, on the border with Switzerland. Antrona Schieranco borders the following municipalities: Bognanco, Calasca-Castiglione, Ceppo Morelli, Montescheno, Saas Almagell (Switzerland), Vanzone con San Carlo, Viganella, Zwischbergen

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(Switzerland). Until 1946, it was a center for silver and gold mining.



### **The Merler Stone**

If the written petroglyphs are without a doubt, at the moment, the last stage of the material analyzed, it is more difficult to discover their period and reason, and probably should be dated back to a not recent historical period<sup>58</sup>. As a matter of fact, Valle Antrona was inhabited by humans already in the Roman Age as demonstrated by the archaeological finds of Rivera di Viganella. The reason leading prehistorical men to draw petroglyphs is probably linked to the world of the transcendent and religion, something that has lasted in time maybe even only as a tradition, after the loss of the original meaning.

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<sup>58</sup> [http://www.parks.it/parco.alta.valle.antrona/Eiti\\_dettaglio.php?id\\_iti=1684](http://www.parks.it/parco.alta.valle.antrona/Eiti_dettaglio.php?id_iti=1684)



## **The History of Alquerque-12. Remaining countries. Volume II.**

### **The drawing of alquerque-12 on a pavement to the Mills, at Baveno, province of Verbano-Cusio-Ossola, region of Piedmont.**

An Alquerque-12 figure on an old Roman road to the mills. The board is engraved on a slab of the floor of the road, probably made or adapted in 1900 (date engraved at the beginning of the pavement)<sup>59</sup>.



**The Alquerque-12 on a pavement to the Mills**  
**Photo: Courtesy of (c) <http://www.centro-studi-triplice-cinta.com>**

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<sup>59</sup> **MARTINELLI, Ghea** (2011). Il richiamo della pietra. Nuove segnalazioni di giochi incisi nel Verbano. In: Vallintrasche, pp. 7-14. Cited by **UBERTI, Marisa** (2012). The Merels board enigma. With the worldwide census of Merels boards.



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**Baveno** is a town and *Comune* in the province of Verbano-Cusio-Ossola, part of Piedmont, northern Italy. It is located on the west coast of Lago Maggiore, 13 miles North West of Arona by rail.

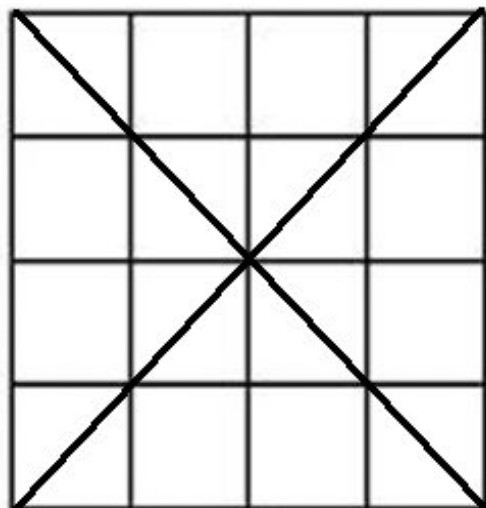
The oldest part in the town is the Romanesque church SS Gervasio and Protasio and the tower, which dates from the XII century. The church retains its original unadorned facade and contains some Roman tombstones which were uncovered when the building was constructed. The one to the left of the door reads, "Trophimus Daphidianus servo di Tiberio Claudio Cesare Augusto. Sacro alla Memoria Eterna". The baptistery, next door, octagonal in shape, is built on the foundation of a fifth century structure, but dates from the sixteenth century and boasts some beautiful renaissance frescos.



**The city of Baveno**  
**Photo: Courtesy of Fabio Contardi**

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**The drawing of an alquerque-12 grid at Verbania (Mergozzo) in the province of Verbano-Cusio-Ossola that belongs to the region of Piedmont.**



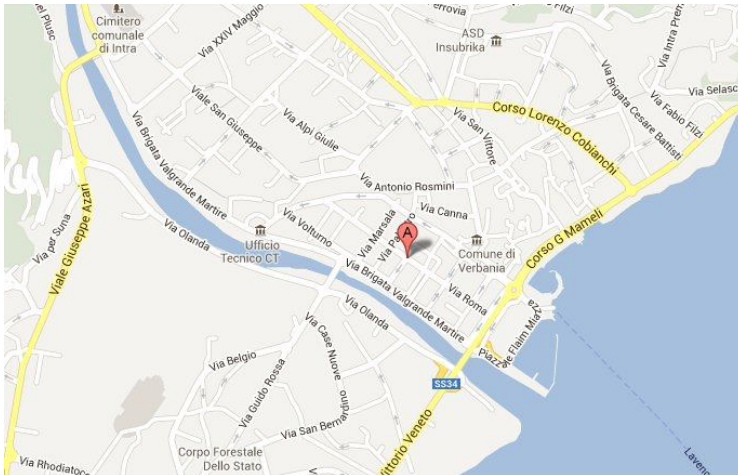
To see this remarkable Alquerque-12 grid, visitors have to go to the Via Roma, number 15. There they will see this drawing on the left seat against the wall of a house. The date of this specific board is unknown.

*Verbania*) is a city and *Comune* (commune) on the shore of Lake Maggiore, Piedmont, in northwest Italy, about 91 km (57 mi) north-west of Milan and about 40 km (25 mi) from Locarno in Switzerland. Verbania was defined a “garden on the lake”. This is a large municipality created in 1939 as a result of the union between Intra (the largest town, located opposite Laveno) and Pallanza (overlooking the Gulf of Borromeo). The two towns remain separated along the

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lakeshores by the magnificent Castagnola headland, which is home to several villas.

However, both cities had their own ancient history. For example, in 1392 we find Pallanza forming part of the Duchy of Milan, and possessing statutes of its own, which, however, had to be approved by the ducal family of the Visconti in Milan. The rule of the Visconti was succeeded by that of the Sforza family, but Pallanza in 1467 paid 2,200 imperial lire and retained its measure of freedom from the feudal yoke. The Sforza family becoming extinct, the Duchy of Milan was inherited by Emperor Charles V., and Pallanza became Spanish. Finally the Spanish dominion passed away, and in 1743, at the treaty of Worms, Pallanza was incorporated into the kingdom of Sardinia and Savoy, Carlo Emanuele III. reigning, and became the capital of a province.



**Via Roma in Verbania**  
**Photo: (c) google map maker**

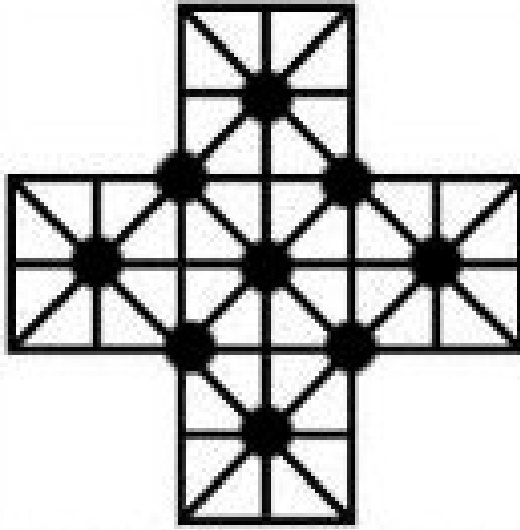
**The History of Alquerque-12. Remaining countries.  
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**Via Roma in Verbania  
Photo: (c) google map traffic**

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**The drawing of fox and geesee at Verbania Montorfano (Mergozzo) in the province of Verbania-Cusio-Ossola that belongs to the region of Piedmont.**



Interesting is the occurrence of the discovery of another game board, this time in Verbania Montorfano (Mergozzo), places well known for granite quarries and the skill of its craftsmen. In the space, in front of the Romanesque church of the village, right, two steps lead into the courtyard of a private home. On one of these steps, visitors can see this game board, partly covered by the above step. Therefore, it is not in its original location.

The small Romanesque Church of San Giovanni Battista (John the Baptist), in the hamlet of Montorfano, is one of the most attractive and best preserved Romanesque churches in the area

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(11th-12th centuries). Recent excavations have revealed traces of previous buildings dating from the 5th-6th and 9th centuries. The cruciform church contains the remains of a Paleochristian baptismal font while outside are the rest of an early medieval basilica with three apses.



**The Church San Giovanni Battista in Montorfano**  
**Photo: Courtesy of (c) Elio Pallard**

St John de Baptist in the village Montorfano was mentioned for the first time in a document of one Reginaldo of the 17<sup>th</sup> June 885, where he claims to have "an olive grove in a place called the head by one Novellina et an area of Saint John alias a place called Saint Cionense.



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**The drawing of fox and geesee at Ungiasca (Cossogno) in the province of Verbano-Cusio-Ossola that belongs to the region of Piedmont.**

A horizontal fox and geesee drawing is found vertically on the upper part of a wall of the Piazza Don Pagani at the village Ungiasca that belongs to the municipality of Cossogno, in the province of Verbano-Cusio-Ossola, region Piemonte. Four external sizeable holes are visible on this drawing<sup>60</sup>.



**The fox and geesee drawing at Ungiasca  
Photo: Marisa Uberti**

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<sup>60</sup> **UBERTI, Marisa** (2012). The Merels board enigma. With the worldwide census of Merels boards, p. 254.

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The village of Ungiasca is 1,01 kilometers far from the same town of Cossogno to whom it belongs.



### **The village Ungiasca of the province of Verbano-Cusio-Ossola**

[http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Cossogno\\_vista\\_su\\_piazza\\_centrale.jpg](http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Cossogno_vista_su_piazza_centrale.jpg)

**Photo: P Tuzzi**

(Image of: PHGCOM/Wikimedia Commons/GNU Free Documentation License, Version 1.2 or any later/Creative Commons Attribution-Share Alike 3.0 Unported, 2.5 Generic, 2.0 Generic and 1.0 Generic)

The locality of Ungiasca rises 630 meters above sea level. The population of Ungiasca counts 67 inhabitants. Near to this place, in the municipality of Cossogno, also rises the locality of Cicogna that is 4,80 kilometres far from Cossogno.

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**The drawing of fox and geese at "Motta d'Aurelio", close to Ungiasca, in the province of Verbano-Cusio-Ossola that belongs to the region of Piedmont.**



**A fox and geese drawing at Aurelio Motta**

**Photo: Courtesy of (c) <http://www.centro-studi-triplice-cinta.com>**

The photo was made by Fabio Copiatti. This item is at a short distance from Ungiasca: it is located in one of the alps of the Motta of Aurelio, more precisely in Curt of Venètt. It is engraved on a stone affixed to the wall of a house, and it is quite similar to the game that people found at Ungiasca. This is not surprising since the locations were frequented by ungiachesi since immemorial times.

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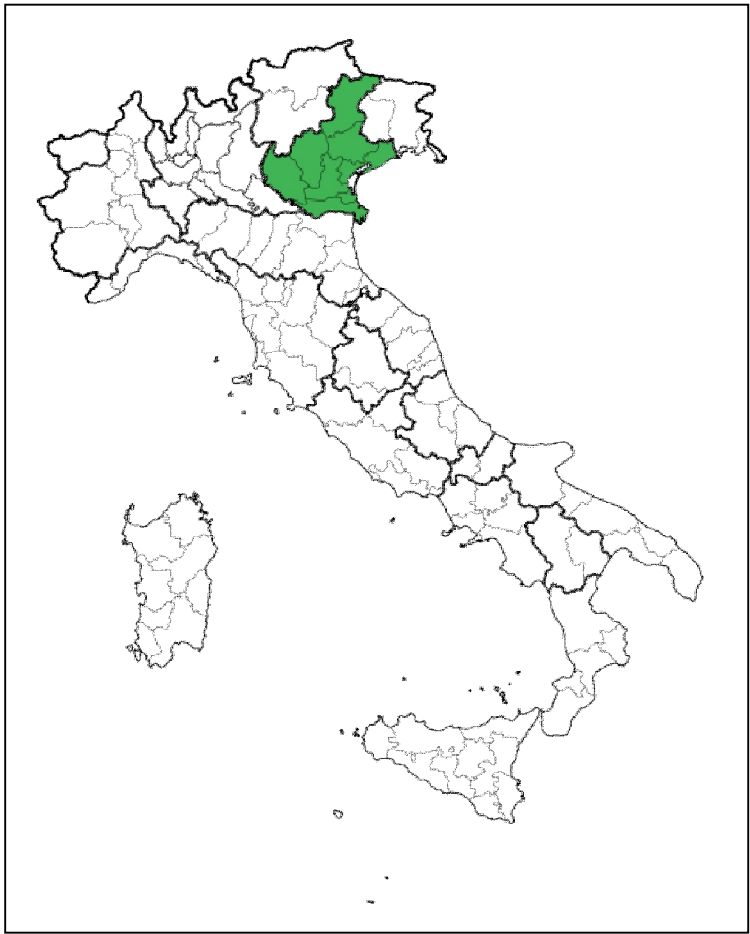


**The place "Motta d'Aurelio"**  
**Photo: Courtesy of (c) Maurizio Piazzai**

Since the Parco Nazionale Val grande is situated in a wild and inaccessible area, it is essential for visitors (especially for those who do not know the valley) to go along the Park trails - some of which are very difficult, dangerous and not signposted yet - only if accompanied by expert guides (the Park Official Guides, Mountain Guides and qualified environmental guides).

From Cossogno, a beautiful walk along an old mule track leads to Miunchio and Nolezzo, two of the typical summer pastures in lower Valgrande (1 hour and a half approximately). From the same departure point, it is also possible to go up to Motta d'Aurelio (about 2 hours), a place of extraordinary panoramic beauty which houses some old town pasturelands.

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**Región of Veneto**

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**The drawing of an Alquerque-12 in Padua in the province  
of Padua that belongs to the region of Veneto.**



**The Alquerque-12 in Padua**

**Photo: Courtesy of (c) <http://www.centro-studi-triplice-cinta.com>**

Visitors will observe the horizontal alquerque-12 drawing in the Basilica of Sant'Antonio, on the external window sills of the Chapter House of the cloister, covered with flower pots<sup>61</sup>.

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<sup>61</sup> **UBERTI, Marisa** (2012). The Merels board enigma. With the worldwide census of Merels boards, p. 267.



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There are other graffiti as pentacles, crosses and-perhaps-a remainder of a Merels Board. There is also a beautiful “Flower of Life” inscribed in a hexagon, in turn inscribed in a circle. The existing Basilica is largely the result of three different reconstructions, which took place over a period of about 70 years: 1238-1310. In St. Anthony's time there was the little church Santa Maria *Mater Domini*, which was then integrated into the Basilica and is now the Chapel of the Black Madonna. Next to this, in 1229, the Friary sprang up, which was probably founded by St. Anthony himself. The construction of the first nucleus of the Basilica, a Franciscan church with only a single nave and a short transept, began in 1238; two lateral naves were added, and it was eventually transformed into the amazing structure that we admire today.



**The Basilica of Saint Anthony of Padua**

[http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Basilica\\_di\\_Sant%27Antonio\\_da\\_Padova.jpg](http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Basilica_di_Sant%27Antonio_da_Padova.jpg)

Photo: Stefan Lew

(Image of: PHGCOM/Wikimedia Commons/GNU Free Documentation License, Version 1.2 or any later/Creative Commons Attribution-Share Alike 3.0 Unported, 2.5 Generic, 2.0 Generic and 1.0 Generic)

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**The drawing of an Alquerque-12 in Venice, in the province of Veneto that belongs to the region of Veneto.**

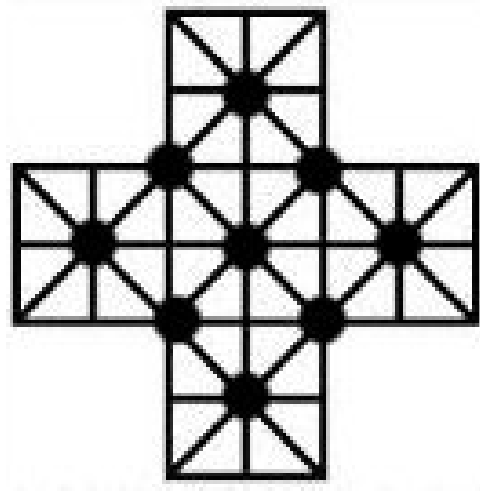


**The Alquerque-12 in Venice**

**Photo: Courtesy of (c) <http://www.centro-studi-triplice-cinta.com>**

Here, we consider the Ex-Fondaco dei Tedeschi (reused as the Post Office building, at least until 2009). On the plates of the porch on the second floor, there are several cuts to sacred theme (crosses, INRI, etc.). On can also watch the profane matters, as alquerque, as well as acronyms and many other glyphs. Also, fascinating is an outstanding example of a Tris more willing to cross so that it could have been used for the game of "Fox and geese?".

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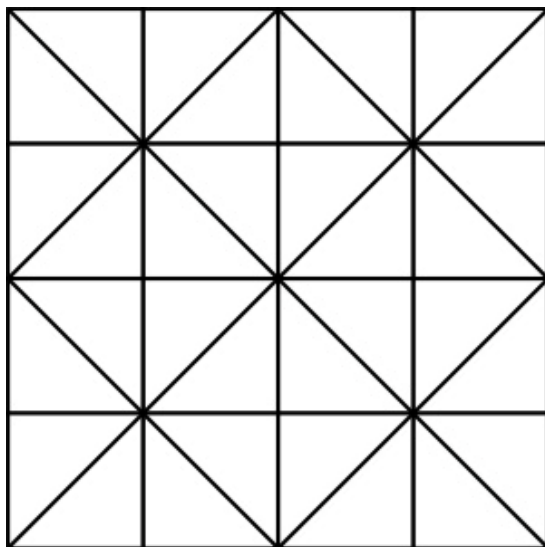
**Fox and Geese of the “Fondaco dei Tedeschi”**



**Fondaco dei Tedeschi (now the Post Office)  
Photo: Courtesy of © Chen, Tsung-Po**

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**The drawing of an Alquerque-12 at Albisano (Torri del Benaco) in the province of Verona that belongs to the region of Veneto.**



**An alquerque-12 drawing on a rock of *Pietra di Bardino***

The village of Albisano is just above Torri del Benaco, climbing the mountain 309 meters above sea level. It is situated in a beautiful location that offers a magnificent view of Lake Garda, the country's capital and surrounding townships. The town is built round the square and the parish church of St. Martin.

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The village of Albisano belongs to the municipality of Torri del Benaco, in the province of Verona, region Veneto. The village of Albisano is 1.61 km from the same town of Torri del Benacoto which it belongs. The localities of Ca'Tronconi (7.65 km), Crero (4.74 km), Le Camille (4,34 km), Pai (6.46 km), Spighetta (3 , 44 km) belong to the municipality of Torri del Benaco.

Torri del Benaco is a comune (municipality) in the Province of Verona in the Italian region Veneto, located about 130 km west of Venice and about 30 km northwest of Verona, on the eastern coast of the Lake Garda.



**The village Albisano**  
**Photo: Courtesy of (c) Brigida Clazzer Doss**

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**Region of Emilia Romagna**



## **The History of Alquerque-12. Remaining countries. Volume II.**

**The drawing of alquerque-12 in the castle of Rontana of Brisighella in the province of Ravenna that belongs to the region of Emilia Romagna.**

An alquerque-12 was found in the ruins of the castle Rontana of Brisighella<sup>62</sup>. This town is a commune (municipality) in the province of Ravenna situated in the region Emilia-Romagna.



**An Alquerque-12 of the castle of Rontana  
Photo: (c) Archeologia nel Parco della Vena del Gesso  
Romagnola**

The *castrum* of Rontana is located on a hill near Brisighella; it was first mentioned in 960, together with the parish church

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<sup>62</sup> **DALLA FATTORIA AL CASTELLO.** Archeologia nel Parco della Vena del Gesso Romagnola 19 dicembre 2009-10 gennaio 2010 Brisighella (Ra), Galleria d'arte, V. Naldi.

## **The History of Alquerque-12. Remaining countries. Volume II.**

of Santa Maria which stands within it in a document of the Archiepiscopal Archive of Ravenna. At that time, the settlement belonged to Ugone di Rontana or della Pieve. The castle of Rontana was a settlement of the prevailing military use (from the top of the hill was easier to control the way the bottom of the Lamone Valley) but was also home to an active community of farmers and artisans in structures that are now being gradually brought to light.



**The ruins of the castle of Rontana**

In the following centuries, the fortification was the object of many disputes and was listed amongst the properties of the church of Ravenna, the municipality of Faenza, of the Manfredi and the Venetian Republic. The destruction of the castle of Rontana by the papal armies took place in 1591. Since autumn 2007, an archaeological survey has started in order to study the birth of the phenomenon of incastellamento in Romagna.

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**The drawing of alquerque-12 at Ferrara, in the province of Ferrara that belongs to the region of Emilia Romagna.**



**The Alquerque-12 in Ferrara**

**Photo: Courtesy of (c) <http://www.centro-studi-triplice-cinta.com>**

The Casa Romei dates of the XV century. It has an upper gallery where numerous boards are carved on the parapet: 3 alquerque-12 games, 4 alquerque-9 games and a circle with eight spokes. With respect to the places of the alquerque-12 boards, one is on the side of the railing facing the room (second arcade. On the IV and VI slab). Two other alquerque-12 boards are in the same place (III arcade. On the II and V slab). The building has been damaged by the earthquake of 2011. Therefore, it is not clear if the carvings are still visible.

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### Another Alquerque-12 in Ferrara

Photo: Courtesy of (c) <http://www.centro-studi-triplice-cinta.com>

The Casa Romei is the best preserved Renaissance building in Ferrara. It was the residence of Giovanni Romei, related to Este family by marriage to Polissena d'Este. It did not fall into decay because it was inherited by the nuns of the Corpus Domini order who lived there without making any changes to its structure. Much of the decoration in the inner rooms has been saved. There are fresco cycles in the Sala delle Sibille (Room of Sibyls), with its original *terracotta* fireplace bearing the coat of arms of Giovanni Romei, in the adjoining Saletta dei Profeti (Room of the Prophets), depicting allegories from the Bible and in other rooms, some of which were commissioned by cardinal Ippolito d'Este and painted by the school of Camillo and Cesare Filippi (16th century).

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**Casa Romei at Ferrara  
Photo: Courtesy of (c) Jonfholl**



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**Casa Romei at Ferrara**  
**Photo: Courtesy of (c) E. Emmons Hahn**

**Ferrara** is a city and *comune* in Emilia-Romagna, northern Italy, capital city of the Province of Ferrara. It is situated 50 kilometres (31 miles) north-northeast of Bologna, on the Po di Volano, a branch channel of the main stream of the Po River, located 50 km (31 miles) north. The town has broad streets and numerous palaces dating from the 14th and 15th centuries, when it hosted the court of the House of Este. For its beauty and cultural importance it has been qualified by UNESCO as World Heritage Site. Modern times have brought a renewal of industrial activity. Ferrara is on the main rail line from Bologna to Padua and Venice, and has branches to Ravenna, Poggio Rusco (for Suzzara) and Codigoro.



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**The drawing of alquerque-12 at Fidenza, in the province of Parma that belongs to the region of Emilia Romagna.**



**The Alquerque-12 in Fidenza**

**Photo: Courtesy of (c) <http://www.centro-studi-triplice-cinta.com>**

In the upper part, just below the roof, some graffiti, including a possible alquerque-12 can be observed by the visitors in the Romanesque cathedral dedicated to Saint Dominus. Next to it there is reason to believe in a grid pattern painted in red.

The town originates from a Roman camp (*Fidentia*) founded on the place where the Gauls Anani had their settlement of Vicumvia. In 41 BC, it received the Roman citizenship and became a *municipium*. In 1199, it was conquered by Parma, but was freed in 1221 by Frederick II of Hohenstaufen. In 1268 the city was however destroyed by the troops of Parma. It was rebuilt around 1300; from 1346 to 1447, it was under a discontinuous lordship of the Visconti of Milan. In 1449, it was conquered by the new Milanese lords, the Sforza, who held it until 1499.

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Fidenza's most famous building is the Cathedral, which dates from the 12th century and is dedicated to Dominus of Fidenza, who was martyred by order of Maximian in 304 AD. The cathedral is an example of Lombard-Romanesque churches of the 11th to 13th centuries in northern Italy. The upper part of the façade is incomplete, but the lower, with its three portals and sculptures, is a fine example of Romanesque architecture, including two statues by Benedetto Antelami and bas-reliefs depicting the *Histories of St. Dominus*. The interior is simple and well-proportioned, and has not been spoilt by restoration. The statue at the front of the cathedral of the apostle Simon Peter is famous for its pointing in the direction of Rome, held in the left hand is an inscription reading "I show you the way to Rome", making it one of the world's first road signs.



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**Cathedral of Donnino in Fidenza**

[http://it.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Facciata\\_Duomo\\_Fidenza.jpg](http://it.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Facciata_Duomo_Fidenza.jpg)

**Photo: Stefan Lew**

**(Image of: PHGCOM/Wikimedia Commons/GNU Free Documentation License, Version 1.2 or any later/Creative Commons Attribution-Share Alike 3.0 Unported, 2.5 Generic, 2.0 Generic and 1.0 Generic)**

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**Region of Liguria**

## **The History of Alquerque-12. Remaining countries. Volume II.**

### **The drawing of an especial alquerque-12 at the Sanctuary Acquasanta at Génova, province of Génova, region of Liguria.**

At the Sanctuary Acquasanta, there is an alquerque-12 game engraved on the wall that is of a fairly recent date. Probably this board was used to play the game of the wolf and sheep (Il giogo del lupo e delle pecore<sup>63</sup>). However, the repeated presence of this game on monuments and Roman artefacts could backdate their appearance.



**Special alquerque-12 drawing at the Sanctuary Acquassanta  
Photo: © Italo Pucci**

The above drawing had been localized in a study<sup>64</sup> of Italo Pucci called: "*Giochi sulla Pietra sui monumenti di Genova*",

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<sup>63</sup> **GAGGIA, F.** (2007). L'orso e i suoi fratelli, Biella.

<sup>64</sup> <http://www.iisl.genova.it/ricerca/images/Giochi%20sulla%20pietra%20Genova.pdf>

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apparently coming from the Istituto Internazionale di Studi Liguri.

Researchers also found a chess board of 8 x 8 engraved on a stone in the Sanctuary of Acquasanta in the municipality of Mele, an oasis of tranquillity which today benefits from the reopening of the nearby Spa.



**The drawing of a chess board at the Sanctuary Acquassanta**  
**Photo: © [www.duepassinelmistero.com](http://www.duepassinelmistero.com)**

The Sanctuary of Nostra Signora dell'Acquasanta is in Acquasanta Terme. According to tradition, here there would have existed a small chapel, built on the ruins of a pagan temple dedicated to the nymph Eja, and the statue of the Madonna was found, by a group of shepherds, in the place where now the chapel stands.



## **The History of Alquerque-12. Remaining countries. Volume II.**

According to some references, the first sull'Acquasanta news comes to us from a document of 1465, a decree on the appointment of Msgr. Leonardo De Fornari, vicar of the archbishop Paul Campofregoso - Archpriest Bartolomeo della Pieve Valdetaro of Palmaro, as the guardian of the church. It is defined as "rural " and dedicated to OUR LADY OF ACQUASANTA.

In the decree of appointment one declares that one has to provide for the custody of that church, that was missing for a long time, the presence of a priest, who would be responsible not only for the religious matters but also for the income of the rights and entitlements related

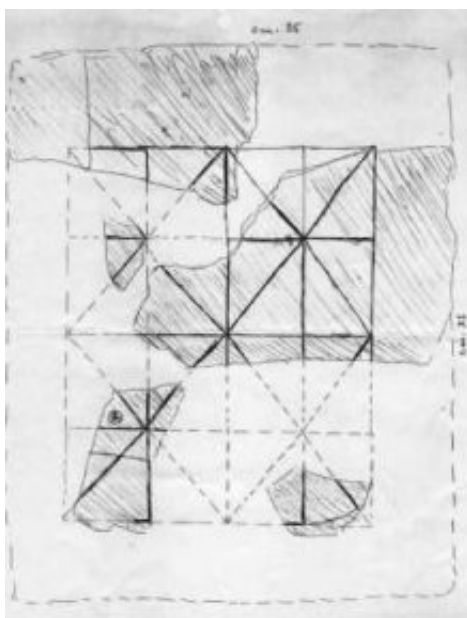


**The Sanctuary Acquasanta at Génova**  
**Photo: Courtesy of (c) Maria Cristina Cartagena**

## **The History of Alquerque-12. Remaining countries. Volume II.**

### **The drawing of an alquerque-12 at the castle Rapallinum, of the Monte Castello at Rapallo, in the province of Genoa, region of Liguria.**

According to Italo Pucci<sup>65</sup> there is an alquerque-12 drawing in the castle Rapallinum (Monte Castello – Rapallo). The age of the drawing can be of the 17th century and it is rare to get this game still in the military environment.



### **Drawing of an Alquerque-12 game at Castrum Rapallinum**

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<sup>65</sup> **PUCCI, Italo** (2009). Spazi per la memoria storica, Roma, p. 258. (La storia di Genova attraverso le vicende delle sedi e dei documenti dell'Archivio di Stato. Atti del convegno internazionale, Genova, 7-10 giugno 2004).

**LAGOMARSINO, R.** (1996). Strade e fortificazioni mediovali di crinale tra Rapallo e la Fontanabuona, testo di conversazione tenuta a Rapallo il 22 giugno 1996.

AA. VV., Archeologia medioevale nelle valli del Tigullio, in La Casana, n. 1/2001.

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The *Castrum Rapallinum*, that dates from the late XIII and early XIV century. It is located near Mount Castle, originally made of wood, the end of 1400, the building was rebuilt in stone with two side towers. The fortress was in use during the XV century, till it was completely abandoned.



### **Castrum Rapallinum at Monte Castello**

Rapallo is a municipality in the province of Genoa, in Liguria, northern Italy. As from 2007, it counts approximately 34,000 inhabitants. It is part of the Tigullio Gulf and is located between Portofino and Chiavari. The first settlement probably dates from the 8th century BC. However, the findings have not clarified if it would be an Etruscan or Greek settlement. Conquered by the Lombards in 643, the village of Rapallo was included in the county of Genoa under Charlemagne. The name of the city appears for the first time in a document from 964. In 1203, the *Podestà* of Rapallo was created, which in 1229 became a Genoese dominion.

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**The drawing of alquerque-12 of the fortification on the mountain of Brichetto in the town Torriglia, province of Génova, region of Liguria.**

We know another drawing of an alquerque-12 board thanks to the research of Mauro Casale, who found a stone with an alquerque drawing<sup>66</sup> in 1967.



**Alquerque-12 drawing of the fortification at Brichetto**  
**Photo: Courtesy of © Mauro Luigi Casale**

It treats of the Mountain Brichetto or Cian da Ture at Donetta (Torrighia), where a fortification was recently located of the 13th century. A specimen of this alquerque-12 stone is preserved in the parish of Torriglia.

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<sup>66</sup> CASALE, Mauro (1985). La magnifica comunità di Torriglia & C, Genova, p. 128.

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**Place of the fortification at Brichetto (Torriglia)  
Photo: Courtesy of © Italo Pucci**

Five archeological researches have discovered this important fortress along “The Chamino of Lombardy”, from the cursader’s harbour of Genova to Pavia, Milan and North Europe. Mauro also published a book about the Templars<sup>67</sup>.

Visitors can find this alquerque-12 board in the Paris of Torriglia. The discovery of this alquerque-12 drawing is similar to the Castrum Rapallinum. There are a lot of similarities that bind the two sites, namely the military target, the same historical period and the fact that they were linked by

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<sup>67</sup> CASALE, Mauro (1000). Templari a Torriglia, Sagep Spa Editor, Genova.



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a network of mule tracks coming from the Riviera to Levante bringing the goods to Piacenza and the Pavese<sup>68</sup>.



**Alquerque-12 of the fortification at Brichetto (Torriglia)**

**Photo: Courtesy of © Italo Pucci**

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<sup>68</sup> CASALE, Mauro (2007). Patranico, Genova, p. 39.



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**A draughts or chess board inside the Park of Acquasola, situated in the city center of Génova, province of Génova, region of Liguria.**



**A draughts (dama) or chess board in the Park of Acquasola  
Photo: Coursey of (c) Maria Cristina Cartagenova**

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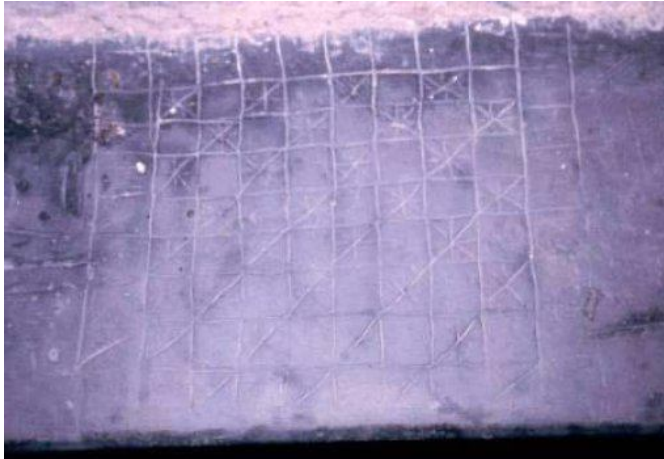
**Park of Acquasola**

This public park, with views ranging over the Bisagno valley, covers the area where the sixteenth century fortifications, linked with Saint Catherine, once stood. This public park, with views ranging over the Bisagno valley, covers the area where the sixteenth century fortifications, linked with Saint Catherine, once stood. We are in the heart of the city, a few meters from piazza Corvetto and Via XX Settembre. The Esplanade dell'Acquasola, designed by the architect Carlo Barabino the early nineteenth century to the "public walk" among the first examples of a public park in Europe, laying on the Walls of the sixteenth century walls that had engulfed the fourteenth century, and finds the most probable ancient, even marginal parts of pre-Roman necropolis.

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**The drawing of a draughts board in the cell of the tower Grimaldina at the Palazzo Ducale of Genova, in the province of Genova that belongs to the region Liguria.**

A number of rooms were In the Grimaldina attic and Tower. They were used as prisons as from 1435 until the years of resistance. During all those years, in the cells there remain testimonies on the walls of prisoners. In the course of the recent restoration, ceramic pawns and a draughts board were discovered. Prisoners painted a cross-X on the squares to indicate the diagonal movement of the draughts game<sup>69</sup>.



**Draughts board in the Palazzo Ducale  
Photo: Courtesy of © Italo Pucci**

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<sup>69</sup> **PUCCI, Italo** (2007). Giochi sulla pietra sui monumenti di Genova, pp. 1-40. In: Istituto Internazionale di Studi Liguri Sezione di Genova.  
<http://www.iisl.genova.it/ricerca/images/Giochi%20sulla%20pietra%20Genova.pdf>

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**Torre Grimaldina at Genoa  
Photo: Courtesy of (c) Marco Molinari**



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**Chess board in the Palazzo Ducale**

**Photo: © Italo Pucci**

Thanks to the researches of Mr. Italo Pucci and Mr. M Fenoglio from the Istituto Internazionale di Studi Liguri<sup>70</sup> also a chess board and an alquerque-9 board was discovered in the same place of the Palazzo Ducale of Genoa.

The first parts of the Palace were built between 1251 and 1275, during the flourishing period of the Republican history of Genoa, while the Torre Grimaldina (also named "Torre del Popolo" - Tower of the People) was completed in 1539.

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<sup>70</sup> **PUCCI, Italo** (2007). Giochi sulla pietra sui monumenti di Genova, pp. 1-40. In: Istituto Internazionale di Studi Liguri Sezione di Genova.  
<http://www.iisl.genova.it/ricerca/images/Giochi%20sulla%20pietra%20Genova.pdf>

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**A vertical chessboard on the wall of the Cathedral of St. Lawrence at Genoa, in the province of Genoa that belongs to the region of Liguria.**

A 'duality' that seems to manifest itself even in the symbolism on the north side (left tower), to the door of St. John (which overlooks the square of the same name), in which a board is placed in two colours (perhaps originally black and white) of 64 squares. The Cathedral of St. Lawrence (Italian: *Cattedrale di San Lorenzo*) is the seat of the Archbishop of Genoa.



**The chessboard on the the Cathedral of St. Lawrence at Genoa**  
**Photo: Courtesy of © [www.duepassinelmistero.com](http://www.duepassinelmistero.com)**

The cathedral was founded probably in the 5th or 6th century AD, devoted to St. Sirus, bishop of Genoa. Excavations under the pavement and in the area in front of today's facade have brought to light walls and pavements of Roman age as well as pre-Christian sarcophagi, suggesting the existence of a cemetery in the site. Later a church devoted to the Twelve



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Apostles was built, which was in turn flanked and replaced by a new cathedral dedicated to St. Lawrence martyr, in Romanesque style. Money came from the successful enterprises of the Genoese fleets in the Crusades.



**Cathedral of St. Lawrence at Genoa**

**Photo: Courtesy of © [www.duepassinelmistero.com](http://www.duepassinelmistero.com)**

The board<sup>71</sup>, in fact, is symbolism that we have already encountered in other religious contexts, such as the Cathedral of Crema, in which we have focused on its esoteric meaning, which could bring the Knights Templar.

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<sup>71</sup> **PUCCI, Italo** (2007). Giochi sulla pietra sui monumenti di Genova, pp. 1-40. In: Istituto Internazionale di Studi Liguri Sezione di Genova.  
<http://www.iisl.genova.it/ricerca/images/Giochi%20sulla%20pietra%20Genova.pdf>

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**The drawing of alquerque-12 at the Museum “delle Statue-  
Stele della Lunigiana”, in the province of Spezia that  
belongs to the region of Liguria.**

Even in Italy, people think that the alquerque-12 game arrived in Genoa from Egypt via Spain. It arrived with the mercenaries of the Catalan Company, when in 1307 the “Order of the Templars”, was dissolved. Today we happily know better. Here, we see half of an alquerque-12 drawing on the pavement near to an ancient well.



**Alquerque-12 drawing at Lunigiana  
Photo: Courtesy of © [www.duepassinelmistero.com](http://www.duepassinelmistero.com)**

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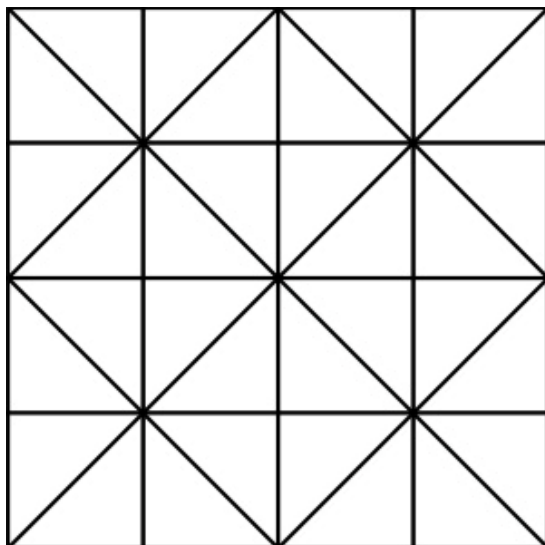
**Museum of the Statue Menhir in Pontremoli**

**Photo: <http://www.statuestele.org/>**

The city of Pontremoli is found in the very end of Tuscany, at the foot of the Appenines, strategically placed along the Francigena road. Cited as the 31st stop in the “itinerary” of the archbishop Sigerico, it was a independent city from the XII to the XIII century and was defined as the “key and door to Tuscany” by Federico II. Since 1975, the Piagnaro Castle has been host to the Museum of the Stele Staues of Lunigiana dedicated to Augusto Cesare Ambrosi. The Stele Statues are enigmatic stone sculptures dated between 4 and 1 thousand A.D., and they represent the most prestigious collection of sculpture from prehistoric Europe. The Piagnaro Castle dates from the X Century. It served to watch the street systems and to protect the citizens of Pontremoli. It is probably the first and original structure of the town.

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**The drawing of alquerque-12 at Ortonovo (Sarzana) in the province of Spezia that belongs to the region of Liguria.**



Visitors will find on the wall of the square in front of the facade of the Mirteto Sanctuary at Ortonovo an alquerque-12 board, as well as an alquerque-9 drawing. In this case, we have no photo available to us, so we have to suffice with a drawing.

**Ortonovo** is a commune (municipality) in the Province of La Spezia, in the Italian region Liguria, located about 100 km (62 mi) southeast of Genoa and about 20 km (12 mi) east of La Spezia. The ancient town is surrounded by a series of walls with two entrances. In the main square is the Guinigi Tower. This is today the campanile of the church of St. Lawrence (17th century), and it was in the past connected to a now disappeared castle. Other sights include The Church of Saints

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James and Philip of the 15th century, the Sanctuary of Mirteto of the 16th century and the Castle of Volpiglione.

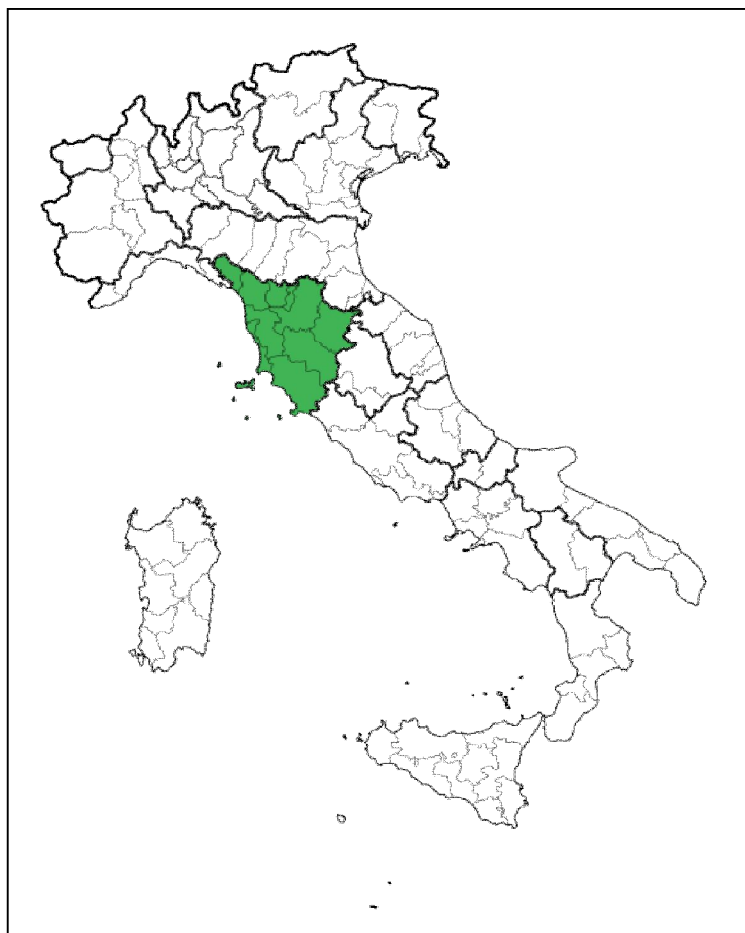


**The Mirteto Sanctuary at Ortonovo**  
**<http://www.comune.ortonovo.sp.it>**

The place where today stands the sanctuary, near Mount Boscaccio south of the historic center of Ortonovo brought about a chapel built around the fifteenth century, named "Santa Maria del Mortineto" and officiated by the brotherhood of the Disciplinanti.

The gush of tears of blood, from a painting of the Madonna at the foot of the cross of Jesus, occasioned the construction of a new larger premises. This building was then suitable for the influx of pilgrims in the little oratory. Construction began in 1540 and ended in the year 1566.

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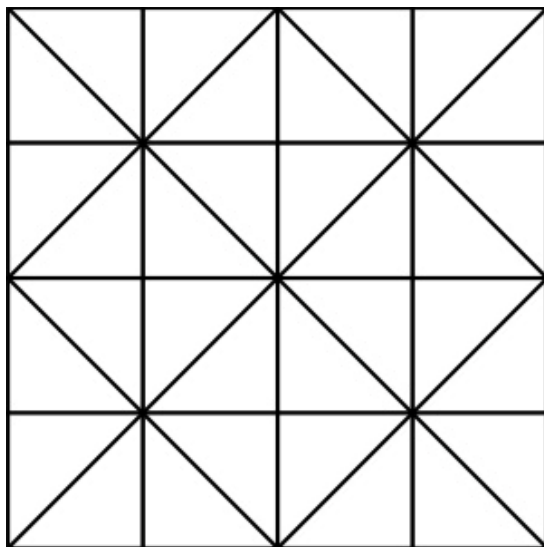


**Region of Tuscany**



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**The drawing of alquerque-12 at Arcidosso, in the province  
of Grosseto, region of Tuscany.**



Tourists will observe an Alquerque-12 board on the window-sill with iron bars (prison cell?). The location of the board is in the medieval tower of the Aldobrandesca Fortress. Impairment is the cause that only half of the board is visible. In this case, we have no photo available to us, so we have to suffice with a drawing.

Arcidosso is a commune (municipality) in the Province of Grosseto in the Italian region Tuscany. The location is about 100 km south of Florence and about 35 km northeast of Grosseto and near the town of Montalcino.

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**The Aldobrandesca Fortress at Arcidosso  
Photo: Courtesy of (c) Antonella Galardi**

This fortress has the privilege of being the oldest building owned by the state government in all of suburban Italy. The construction of the first nucleus of the castle, around which the town would develop, dates from about the year 1000. From the 12th to the 14th centuries it was a stronghold of the Aldobrandeschi and a bulwark against invasion of the Amiata territory by Siena. The north side of the complex is characterized by a tower that rises beyond the roof of the highest building in the compound. The top of the tower is crowned by a series of blind arches resting on shelves. The fortress, recently restored, is used today as a space for cultural activities. From the top of the tower, there is a magnificent panorama of Mount Amiata.

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**The drawing of alquerque-12 at Campiglia Marittima in  
the province of Livorno, region of Tuscany.**



**An Alquerque-12 on a stone block**

**Photo: Courtesy of (c) <http://www.centro-studi-triplice-cinta.com>**

Visitors will observe an alquerque-12 drawing on a stone in the ticket office on the second floor of the Museum of Temperino at Campiglia Marittima. This Museum belongs to the Archaeological Park of San Silvestro. Researchers found this stone during archaeological excavations carried out at the Rocca di San Silvestro, located at the highest point of the park<sup>72</sup>. The drawing dates of the tenth century.

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<sup>72</sup> GIACOMINI , Anna (2004). Sator, Templar Code. Editions Pens & Papyri, p. 66.

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**Rocca di San Silvestro**

[http://it.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:La\\_rocca\\_di\\_san\\_silvestro.JPG](http://it.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:La_rocca_di_san_silvestro.JPG)

**Photo: Deboran**

**(Image of: PHGCOM/Wikimedia Commons/GNU Free Documentation License, Version 1.2 or any later/Creative Commons Attribution-Share Alike 3.0 Unported, 2.5 Generic, 2.0 Generic and 1.0 Generic)**

Rocca San Silvestro was built between the tenth and the eleventh century, when the count Gherardesca decided to exploit the mineral resources of the area. The original name, however, is not Rocca San Silvestro, but Rocca a millstone, as derived from medieval documents. These documents show the boundaries and the geographic location of the castle. They are kept in the State Archives of Florence, more precisely they treat about the Diplomas of Gherardesca [1]. The name of Rocca San Silvestro was only given when the site had already been abandoned. It is derived from the name of the saint to whom the church was dedicated in the village.

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**The drawing of alquerque-12 in Castelnuevo di Garfagnana, province of Lucca, region of Tuscany.**

A recent drawing of the alquerque-12 game was found on the "Roccia del sole", localized on the Piglionico Mountain.



**An alquerque-12 drawing on the "Roccia del Sole"  
Photo: Courtesy of (c) <http://www.duepassinelmistero.com>**

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More information about this drawing we can find in the article of Gavazzi<sup>73</sup> and Bagnoli<sup>74</sup>.



**Alquerque-12 on the Roccia del Sole**  
**Photo: Courtesy of © Emanuele Lotti**

This site, known as the Roccia del sole (Citton and Pastorelli, 1995), is certainly the most important one of the Apuan Alps and the one that most lends itself to a museum display. This is a relatively large area at the base of Mount Piglionico, open

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<sup>73</sup> GAVAZZI, C. (2007). "L'orso e i suoi fratelli..." (Docbi-Centro Studi Biellesi, 2007), p. 12, referring to a publication of una pubblicazione di CITTON, G. and PASTORELLI, I. (1995). "Incisioni rupestri sulle Alpi Apuane e in Alta Versilia", 1995, pp. 29-30.

<sup>74</sup> BAGNOLI, Paolo Emilio; PANICUCCI, Naida; VIEGI, Mauro (2005). Manifestazioni di arte rupestre figurativa sulle alpi apuane centrali, pp. 1-15.



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and free of woody vegetation, slightly sloping to the north. On its surface, were recorded about fifty signs, mostly pinnate or other instruments, and circles some of which have geometric designs on them.

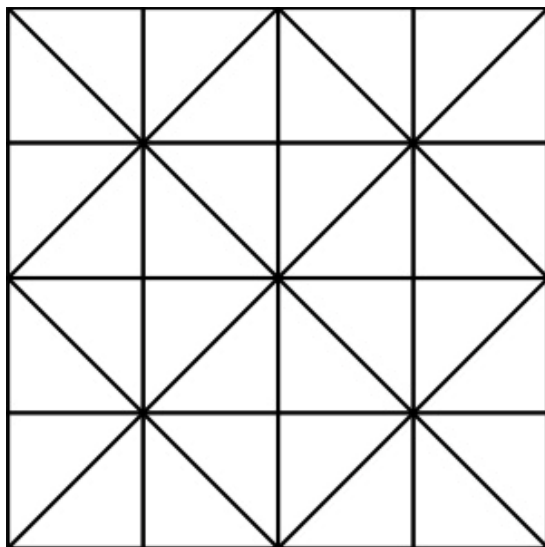


**Alquerque-12 on the Roccia del Sole**  
**Photo: Courtesy of © Emanuele Lotti**

The **Apuan Alps** (Italian: *Alpi Apuane*) are a mountain range in northern Tuscany, Italy, part of the Apennine Mountains. They are included between the valleys of the Serchio and Magra rivers, and, to north-west, the Garfagnana and Lunigiana. The name derives from that of the Apuani Ligures tribe who lived here in ancient times.

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**The drawing of alquerque-12 at the Hermitage of Calomini, in the province of Lucca, region of Tuscany.**



In this case, we have no photo available to us, so we have to suffice with a drawing. The inhabitants of Calomini also used an alquerque-12 drawing for playing. Visitors will observe the board on the parapet of the square, in front of the building.

Vergemoli is a commune (municipality) in the Province of Lucca, in the Italian region Tuscany, located about 80 km northwest of Florence and about 25 km northwest of Lucca. It has the following “frazzioni”: Calomini, Campolelisi, Fornovolasco, San pellegrinetto. Vergemoli borders the following municipalities: Fabbriche di Vallico, Galliciano, Molazzana, Pescaglia, Stazzema.

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**Eremo di Calomini**

**Photo: Courtesys of © <http://www.ERMOCALOMINI.IT/>**

The Hermitage of Calomini is nestled under a huge overhanging rock cliff. The church was built hugging the side of the mountain, and more than half, the sacristy and most of the convent, remains excavated into the mountain, with only the use of a chisel. The hermitage of Calomini dates from the eleventh century.

There have been many interventions in the history of expansion, especially in 1700. The Hermitage of Calomini is located along the road to the village of Vergemoli, above the village of Gallicano.

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**The drawing of alquerque-12 in the Cathedral “Duomo di San Martino” at Lucca, in the province of Lucca that belongs to the region of Tuscany.**



**Alquerque-12 on a wall just in front of the Cathedral  
“Duomi di San Martino”.**

In this case, visitors will observe the alquerque-12 drawing outside the cathedral, on the right side of the former cloister. On the other hand, a beautiful pattern of Sacred Center can be admired on the wall of a building just opposite the Cathedral. Giulio Coluzzi notes the extraordinary coincidence of their juxtaposition to another “sacred center”, represented by the Cathedral and its precious relic.

The Cathedral of St Martin (Italian *Duomo*) is a church in Lucca, Italy. The building started in 1063 by Bishop Anselm (later Pope Alexander II).

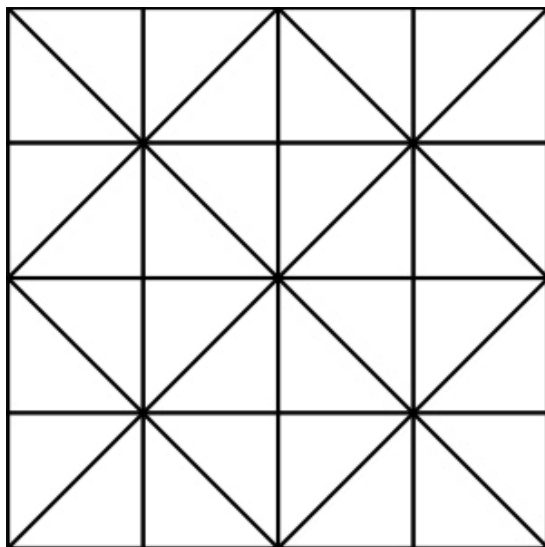
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**Cathedral of San Martino  
Courtesy of Sonia Cardoso Sardinha**

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**The drawing of an alquerque-12 at Pianiza, in the province of Lucca that belongs to the region of Tuscany.**

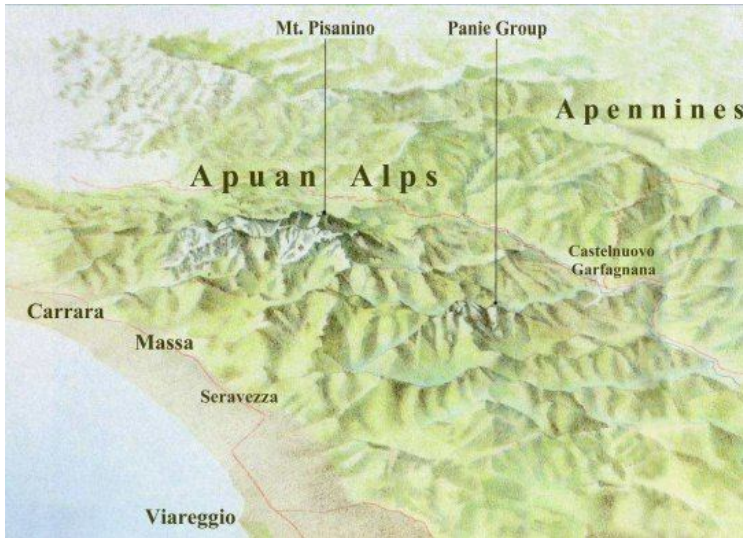


In this case too, we have no photo available to us, so we have to suffice with a drawing. The alquerque-12 board will be found in Pianiza of the Panie Group in the Apuane Alps. It is situated on a large flat block of metamorphic limestone (marble of Pania, Jurassic) and 4,5 (m) by side, grey surface, in the North-South direction, altitude 1.590 m

Two “Flowers of Life” are inscribed in a hexagon, in turn enclosed by a circle.



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**Alquerque-12 found in Pianiza of the Panie Group**  
**Photo: Courtesy of © [www.apuanegeopark.it](http://www.apuanegeopark.it)**

Pania della Croce is a mountain [1,858 (m)] in the Alpi Apuane, in Tuscany, central Italy.

Though not the highest summit of the Alpi Apuane, - Pania della Croce comes in on place four - the mountain can be called the trademark or signature mountain of the range. Visible from all sides around, itself it is one of the best lookouts of the Alpi Apuane, thanks to its separated location. Only the views from Pania Secca can rival the ones from Pania della Croce with the full view of the Apuane and the whole main ridge of the Appennino Tosco-Emiliano to the east. Of course, the Tyrrhenean Sea seems only a few feet away.

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**Pania della Croce seen from Vologno, in the upper Versilia**

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Pania\\_della\\_Croce.JPG](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Pania_della_Croce.JPG)

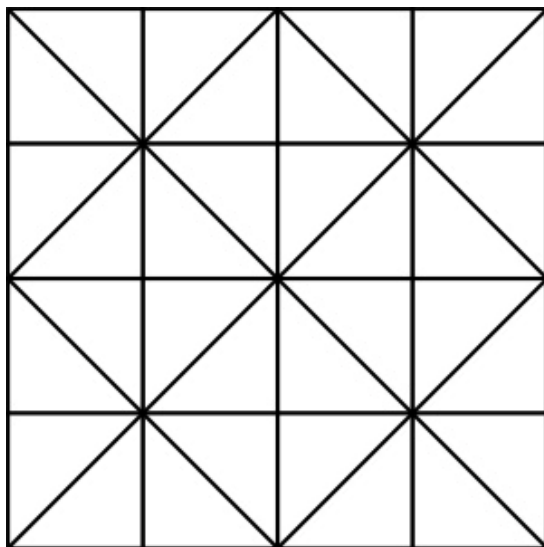
**Photo: Vergaglia**

**(Image of: PHGCOM/Wikimedia Commons/GNU Free Documentation License, Version 1.2 or any later/Creative Commons Attribution-Share Alike 3.0 Unported, 2.5 Generic, 2.0 Generic and 1.0 Generic)**

Together with its direct neighbour, Pania Secca, Pania della Croce stands out as one of the most visible mountains of the Alpi Apuane in Italy's Toscana (Tuscany) region. It forms a barrier, separating the northern main summits of the group from the lower karst-like hill country in the south. Two valleys, Val Torrente Turrice Secca in the north and Val Torrente Turrice di Galliciano in the south, separate the two mountains from their surroundings. They ensure that, on both sides, the elevation difference is more than 1000m.

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**The drawing of an alquerque-12 at Puglianella (Camporgiano), in the province of Lucca that belongs to the region of Tuscany.**

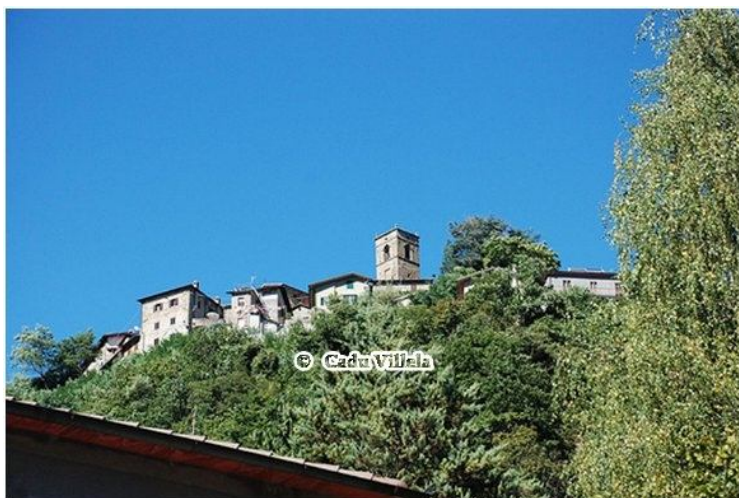


Visitors can observe an alquerque-12 drawing on the floor of the farmyard of Gianandrea. In this case too, we have no photo available to us, so we have to suffice with a drawing.

The village of Puglianella belongs to the municipality of Camporgiano, in the province of Lucca, region Toscana. The village of Puglianella is 2,98 kilometers far from the same town of Camporgiano to whom it belongs. To the municipality of Camporgiano also belong the localities of Borelletta (1,34 km), Casatico (1,82 km), Casciana (3,01 km), Cascianella (3,10 km), Colle Aprico (0,96 km), Filicaia (4,58 km), Poggio (2,65 km), Roccalberti (1,63 km), Sillicano (5,04 km), Vitoio

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(1,31 km). The number in parentheses following each village name indicates the distance between the same village and the municipality of Camporgiano.

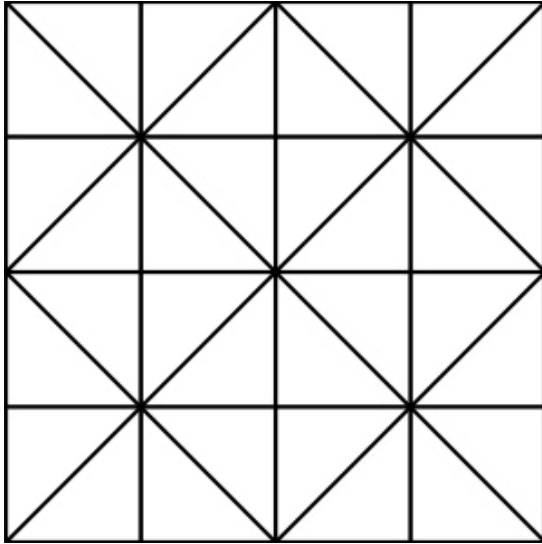


**The city of Puglianella**  
**Photo: Courtesy of © Cadu Villela**

Puglianella is located between the drum and the enclosure of Sumbra. The ancient village of Puglianello of medieval origin is mentioned in a document of 795 which is among the goods offered to the church of Vitoio. The current hamlet of Camporgiano, was already part of the same name Vicaria in the past, during the period of Lucca and the Estense period as the land of the Duchy of Modena. The sixteenth-century parish church dedicated to Maria Assunta (Church of Santa Maria Assunta) is of recent reconstruction.

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**The drawing of an alquerque-12 at Stazzema, in the province of Lucca that belongs to the region of Tuscany.**



An alquerque-12 drawing appears in a not defined position of the village Stazzema. Also in this case, we have no photo available to us, so we have to suffice with a drawing.

Stazzema is a commune (municipality) of 3367 inhabitants in the Province of Lucca of the Italian region Tuscany. It is located about 80 kilometres (50 miles) northwest of Florence and about 25 km (16 mi) northwest of Lucca. The territory has been inhabited since the Iron Age as evidenced by the findings of the pre-Roman burials. It was then inhabited by the Apuan Ligurians.

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**The city of Stazzema**  
**By Lucarelli - Own work, CC BY-SA 3.0,**  
**<https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=7304835>**



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### **The drawing of an especial alquerque-12 in the churchyard at Colonnata, province of Massa-Carrara, region of Tuscany.**

In the churchyard of the parish church of this small village are different drawings of boards to be seen. They are located on the slabs covering the right wall, facing the church and are in all probability performed with different instruments, by different hands, as well as in different times.



**Special alquerque-12 drawing with two additional quadrangles**  
**Photo: Courtesy of © [www.duepassinelmistero.com](http://www.duepassinelmistero.com)**

This town was the largest extraction complex of the Roman period. The name of this village derives from the fact that it was born as a colony, inhabited by those who worked at the marble quarries. The country has maintained part of its original historic features that were primarily guided by the use of marble in the wall paintings, such as in doorways, in the jambs of doors and windows and other building components. Among the other items of furniture in the country can be seen: the north gate of access to the village, which belonged to the medieval walls now

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disappeared, the marble paved courtyard which is located at the far south of the town.



**Church “San Bartolomeo” of Colonnata**  
Courtesy of [www.fototoscana.it](http://www.fototoscana.it)

Furthermore we can see in this small village the stone bell tower with a clock, and the parish church of the sixteenth century dedicated to St. Bartholomew. The Church of Saint Bartholomew is a building consecrated at the beginning of the twelfth century. It was restored in the nineteenth century.

Colonnade is the world capital of lard, the basic food of the miners. This element of the poor has become a refined food. During the preparation, workers put the striped lard in a basin of marble carved by hand

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**The drawing of an alquerque-12 in the churchyard at  
Colonnata, province of Massa-Carrara, region of Tuscany.**

The drawing of this normal alquerque board on marble was also found in the same churchyard of the small village Colonnata.



**Alquerque-12 drawing at Colonnata  
Photo: Courtesy of © [www.duepassinelmistero.com](http://www.duepassinelmistero.com)**

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**The city of Colonna  
Photo: Courtesy of © Emanuele Lotti**

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**The drawing of alquerque-12 at the Capannaia  
(Castelpoggio), province of Massa-Carrara, region of  
Tuscany**



**Alquerque-12 drawing at Castelpoggio  
Photo: Courtesy of © www.duepassinelmistero.com**

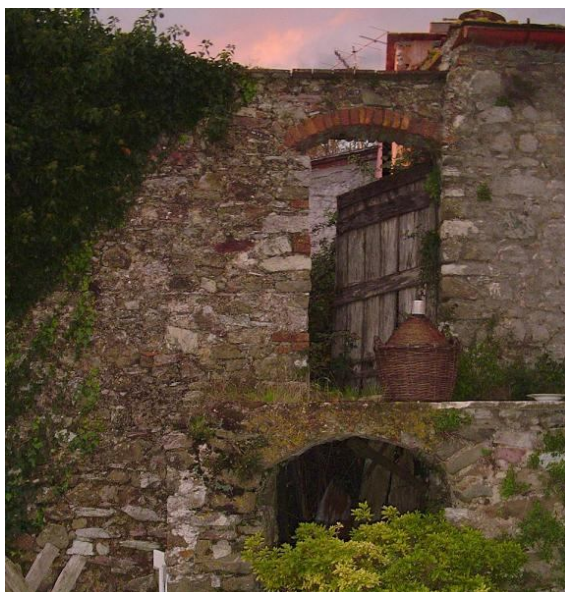
Visitors will observe half of an alquerque-12 drawing at the road paving stones of Capannaia of Castelpoggio. Unfortunately, only half of the board had been preserved.



## **The History of Alquerque-12. Remaining countries. Volume II.**

Castelpoggio (550 m above sea level) is a village in the municipality of Carrara. It is an ancient millennium village nestled in the foothills of the Apuane Alps. Furthermore, it has a panoramic position overlooking the plain of Luni, and it is surrounded by woodland meadows.

The village has a centuries-old history. The first historical document that concerns this place dates from 997 BC. People adopted the date of this historic year as the birthday of the country even if the village undoubtedly existed for some time



**Capannaia**

**Photo: Courtesy of (c) Emiliano Castelpoggio**



**The History of Alquerque-12. Remaining countries.  
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**The drawing of an alquerque-12 in the location Castello (Castelpoggio), of the province of Massa-Carrara, region of Tuscany.**



Here, we see a fragment of the alquerque-12 game in the location Castello of Castelpoggio, in the square at the bottom of Via Venturelli. Among the sandstone slabs of the squares and the farmyards of the country, there are other drawings of boards that are very consumed by time, sometimes almost imperceptible.

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**Via Venturelli**

**Photo: Courtesy of (c) Emiliano Castelpoggio**

Castelpoggio (550 m above sea level) is a village in the municipality of Carrara. It is an ancient millennium village nestled in the foothills of the Apuane Alps. Furthermore, it has a panoramic position overlooking the plain of Luni, and it is surrounded by woodland meadows.

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**The History of Alquerque-12. Remaining countries.  
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**The drawing of alquerque-12 at Pieve dei Santi Giovanni ed Ermolao at Calci, in the province of Pisa that belongs to the region of Tuscany.**

Francesco Fiumalbi made a thorough study of the Parish Church of SS. Giovanni and Ermolao at Calci and thanks to his research we have another alquerque-12 drawing in Italy.



**A vertical Alquerque-12 drawing on a stone  
Photo: Courtesy of (c) Francesco Fiumalbi  
<http://smartarc.blogspot.com>**

The Parish Church of SS. and Ermolao Giovanni was founded, probably, the last decade of the eleventh century, in the time of Archbishop Daiberto (Director 1092-1098), on land owned by the bishopric of Pisa. The building was completed by 1110, when inside it housed the relics of Sant'Ermolao, coming from

## **The History of Alquerque-12. Remaining countries. Volume II.**

Constantinople, Archbishop Pietro. The church was originally dedicated to St. Mary and Sant'Ermolao, with the latter title that prevailed during the '400. In the twelfth century, the factory was enlarged towards the north, to form the space needed to accommodate the font then remained unfinished.

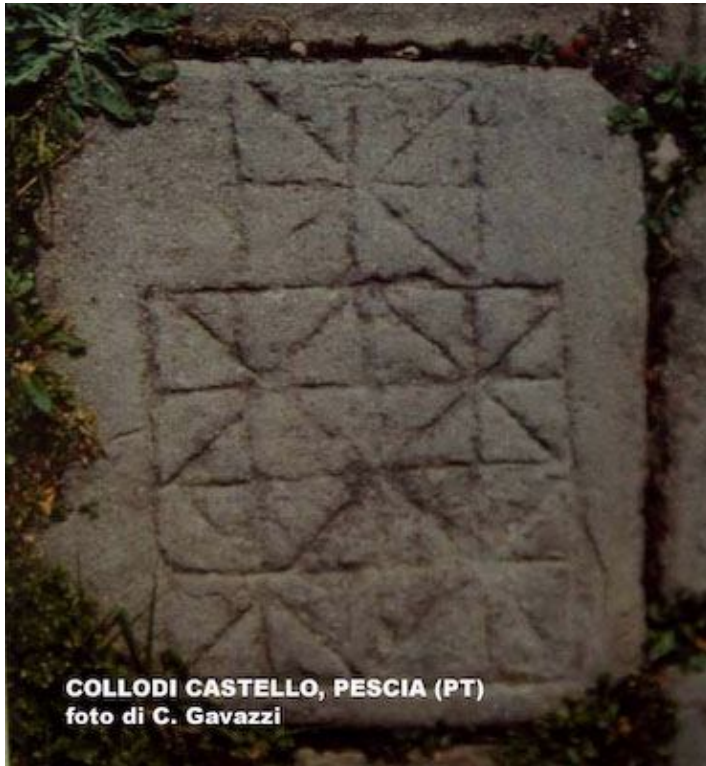


**Parish Church of SS. Giovanni and Ermolao at Calci**  
**Photo: Courtesy of (c) Francesco Fiumalbi**  
**<http://smartarc.blogspot.com>**

Calci is a commune (municipality) in the Province of Pisa in the Italian region Tuscany, located about 60 km west of Florence and about 9 km east of Pisa. The main settlement is the fraction of La Pieve while the rest of the population is distributed between other hamlets.

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**The drawing of alquerque-12 at Collodi Castello of Pescia,  
province of Pistoia, region of Tuscany.**



Visitors will observe a prolonged alquerque-12 drawing in the street Piazza Fontana n° 3. There are many symbols in the whole square, scratched on the stone slabs coming from the quarries of Guamo (Lucca)<sup>75</sup>. Interesting is the fact, that there

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<sup>75</sup> **UBERTI, Marisa** (2012). The Merels board enigma. With the worldwide census of Merels boards, p. 289.



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is another same drawing between Piazza Fontana and Via Lunga (lower part of the village).



**Piazza Fontana**

We have to bear in mind<sup>76</sup> that there is also a common alquerque-12 drawing between the Piazza Fontana and Via Lunga of the lower part of the village. Furthermore, we will find an alquerque-12 drawing in a little square at the end of Via Pietro Nenni and another one that is placed there vertically. Finally, two other alquerque-12 drawings can be found at the Via per Collodi Castello, near number 3.

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<sup>76</sup> **UBERTI, Marisa** (2012). The Merels board enigma. With the worldwide census of Merels boards, pp. 288-289.



## The History of Alquerque-12. Remaining countries. Volume II.



**Collodi Castello**<sup>77</sup>

The old village of Collodi Castle appears in documents, written by the end of the twelfth century. It probably originated from emigrations of the population of the valley (There existed an older small settlement called Debbia) who wished to fortify itself on the hill above, called Colle Odo or Odolo, a name of Germanic origin.

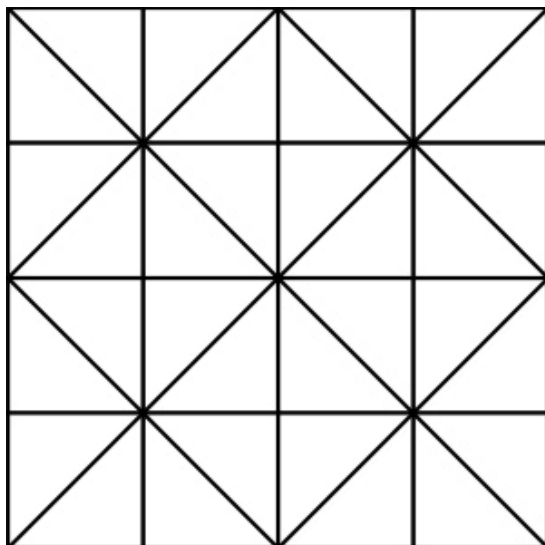
In an excellent strategic position, Collodi was fought from 1329 to 1442 from Lucca and Florence, becoming after numerous attacks and looting, a fortified outpost of the Republic of Lucca. Along the narrow streets and cobbled streets, the houses retain their medieval layout. The village gathers the remains of the fortifications and at the top of the village, the church of San Bartolomeo (XIII).

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<sup>77</sup> With thanks to <http://www.webalice.it/graziano.alterini/2011.html>

## The History of Alquerque-12. Remaining countries. Volume II.

**The drawing of alquerque-12 at Pescia, province of Pistoia that belongs to the region of Tuscany.**



Visitors will observe an alquerque-12 drawing along the parapet of Via Forti, as a barrier to the river, near the entrance of a private house<sup>78</sup>. In this case, we have no photo available to us, so we have to suffice with a drawing.

Pescia is an Italian city in the province of Pistoia, Tuscany, central Italy. It is located in a central zone between the cities Lucca and Florence, on the banks of the homonymous river. Archaeological excavations have suggested that the Lombards built a first settlement on the river banks here. The name of the city comes, in fact, from a Lombard word, meaning "river".

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<sup>78</sup> **UBERTI, Marisa** (2012). The Merels board enigma. With the worldwide census of Merels boards, p. 290.

## **The History of Alquerque-12. Remaining countries. Volume II.**

Lucca occupied and destroyed Pescia during the 13th century, but the town was quickly rebuilt. During the entire Middle Ages, Florence and Lucca contended for the city as the latter was located on the border between the two republics. In 1339, after almost ten years of war, Florence occupied it.

The economy of the city was founded on mulberry cultivation and silkworm breeding. Heavily struck by the Black Death, Pescia overcame the demographic and economic depression which had ensued only at the end of that century (15th century). At the end of 17th century, the Grand-duke of Tuscany declared Pescia "City of the Grand Duchy of Tuscany".



**Via Forti at Pescia**

**Courtesy: <http://www.centro-studi-triplice-cinta.com>**

## **The History of Alquerque-12. Remaining countries. Volume II.**

**The drawing of alquerque-12 at Vellano, province of Pistoia that belongs to the region of Tuscany.**



**Alquerque-12 on the “Ruga del San Michele”**

Visitors will find an alquerque-12 drawing along the way called "Ruga del San Michele", from the church down to "Via delle Mura". On the same wall, there is also a cross (Calvary type) with an X superimposed at the point of intersection (radial)<sup>79</sup>. On the pavement of the streets around the church of San Michele (Via San Michele di Sotto and Via delle Monache), there is another alquerque-12 drawing. Another alquerque is visible on the threshold of access to a private home. One can see very well the upper half, and the lower one is probably worn by users.

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<sup>79</sup> **UBERTI, Marisa** (2012). The Merels board enigma. With the worldwide census of Merels boards, p. 290.

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**Alquerque-12 drawing on the pavement around the church**



**Alquerque-12 of a private home**

## **The History of Alquerque-12. Remaining countries. Volume II.**



**The city Vellano**

Vellano is a village in the municipality of Pescia. Until 1928, it was a town in its own in the province of Lucca, when it was abolished and its territory annexed to the municipality of Pescia. The town of Vellano occupied the area now called Swiss Pescia, had an area of 25 square kilometers and included, in addition to the capital, fractions of Castelvecchio, Pietrabuona, Sorana, Stiappa and Pontito (the latter two annexed in 1883 and removed to the town of Villa Basilica).

Its territory is bordered by the municipalities of Villa Basilica, Bagni di Lucca, Piteglio, Marliana, Massa and Cozzile, Buggiano and Pescia, the municipal coat of arms showed three trees of hazel (*Corylus avellana*), with obvious reference to the name of the capital. The town of Vellano was suppressed in 1928 because of the collapse of its finances and was annexed to the municipality of Pescia. In the same year, Vellano was subtracted of the province of Lucca to be assigned to that one of Pistoia. At the time of the suppression municipality had 3761 inhabitants.



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**Region of Lazio**

**The History of Alquerque-12. Remaining countries.  
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**The drawing of alquerque-12 on the wall of the Abbey Fossanova, province of Latina, region of Lazio.**



**An alquerque-12 of the Abbey Fossanova<sup>80</sup>**

Viewers will observe an alquerque-12 drawing on a low wall sustaining the columns and the cloister of the Cistercian Abbey of Fossanova (IX century, later changed). This alquerque-12 is of a smaller size and more marked than the other one that is situated more or less on the same place of the wall. The stones of the wall, however, can be traced back, either as reuse of ancient Roman material. The date of the alquerque-12 drawings could be between the XII - XIII century. As stated before, more or less on the same place of the wall another alquerque-12 is found. This alquerque-12, in turn, is larger and more superficial than the other one.

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<sup>80</sup> With thanks to <http://giorgiopintus.blogspot.com.es/>

**The History of Alquerque-12. Remaining countries.  
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**Another alquerque-12 of the Abbey Fossanova<sup>81</sup>**

The first monastery on this site was built by the Benedictines in 529 AD on the site of a Roman villa. It was dedicated to St. Stephen, the first martyr. The abbey was given to the Cistercians in 1135. Construction on the abbey church began in 1163; it was consecrated by Pope Innocent III in 1208. By the time, it was completed at the end of the 13th century. This Cistercian abbey is one of the finest examples of the Burgundian Early Gothic style in Italy, dated from around 1135. Consecrated in 1208, retains the bare architecture, the magnificent rose window and finely carved capitals, reflecting the prominent role within the area. En route to the Second Council of Lyon in 1274, the Dominican scholastic Thomas Aquinas died in the abbey on 7 March. The frugal Gothic

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<sup>81</sup> With thanks to <http://giorgiopintus.blogspot.com.es/>

## **The History of Alquerque-12. Remaining countries. Volume II.**

church (1187-1208) is cruciform and square-ended, closely similar to that of Casamari and also of the great church at Citeaux. The church is flanked on one side by the cloister, along with the refectory and chapter house and on the other side by the cemetery. The nave at Fossanova dates from 1187 and the church was consecrated in 1208.



**The Abbey of Fossanova**

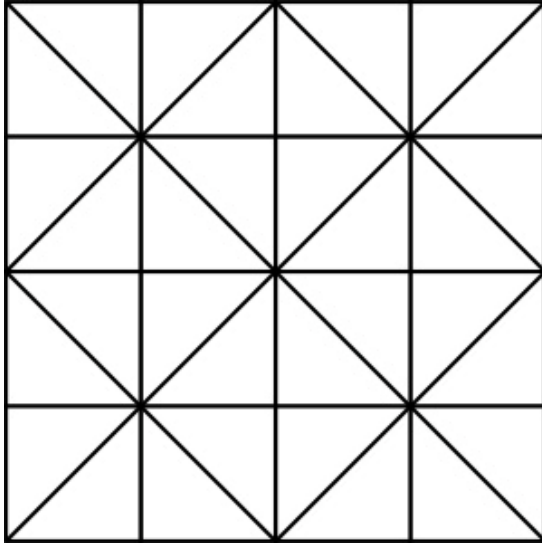
[http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Abbazia\\_di\\_Fossanova\\_%282008%29.jpg](http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Abbazia_di_Fossanova_%282008%29.jpg)

Photo: Pequod76

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**The drawing of alquerque-12 in the Cantelmo Palace of  
Atina, in the province of Frosinone, region of Lazio.**



The Cantelmo Palace of Atina has a vertical alquerque-12 drawing on a block in the arc of the gate<sup>82</sup>. In this case, we have no photo available to us, so we have to suffice with a drawing.

The Cantelmo family, of French origins, had arrived in Italy in the 13th century around the time the Angevins conquered Naples (1266). From the Angevins, the Cantelmo received several castles and fiefs around Alvito in what is now the Valcomino, dominated by the numerous fiefs of the dominant regional monasteries (such as Monte Cassino and San Vincenzo al Volturno), as well as of the rival family of the

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<sup>82</sup> **UBERTI, Marisa** (2012). The Merels board enigma. With the worldwide census of Merels boards, p. 294.

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Counts of Aquino. Rostaino and his successors tried unsuccessfully to extend their control over the whole region in the 14th century. They sided with Queen Joan II of Naples but were defeated by the troops of Charles of Durazzo. In a document of 1384, Giacomo IV is mentioned as "lord of the lands of Alvito". During the turmoil caused by the succession of Ladislaus of Naples, the Cantelmo sided with his rival, Louis II of Anjou. Rostainuccio ("little Rostaino") was defeated and captured by Jacopo Orsini at Pereto in Abruzzo, in 1369, and Alvito was granted by Ladislaus to Andrea Tomacelli, brother of the Count of Sora and Pope Boniface IX.



**Cantelmo Palace**

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Palazzo\\_Ducale\\_di\\_Atina.JPG](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Palazzo_Ducale_di_Atina.JPG)

Photo: Wentto

(Image of: PHGCOM/Wikimedia Commons/GNU Free Documentation License, Version 1.2 or any later/Creative Commons Attribution-Share Alike 3.0 Unported, 2.5 Generic, 2.0 Generic and 1.0 Generic)



**The History of Alquerque-12. Remaining countries.  
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**The drawing of alquerque-12 at Poggio Catino, in the province of Rieti that belongs to the region of Lazio.**



**Alquerque-12 drawing at Poggio Catino<sup>83</sup>**

The town Poggio Catino also has an alquerque-12 drawing, but in this case we have to direct ourselves to the external wall of the city<sup>84</sup>. Researchers believe that there also exists a draughts game on the external wall of the city. This is quite well possible, since the draughts game is nothing more than a continuation of the alquerque game, but in this case played on a chess board and with the same movements. Lateron, with the

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<sup>83</sup> With thanks to <http://giorgiopintus.blogspot.com.es>

<sup>84</sup> **UBERTI, Marisa** (2012). The Merels board enigma. With the worldwide census of Merels boards, p. 304.

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introduction of the new powerful dama the draughts game became a totally new game.



**A possible draughts game<sup>85</sup>**

Poggio Catino is a *comune* (municipality) in the Province of Rieti in the Italian region Latium, located about 45 km northeast of Rome and about 20 km southwest of Rieti. As of 31 December 2004, it had a population of 1,288 and an area of 15.0 km<sup>2</sup>. Poggio Catino borders the following municipalities: Cantalupo in Sabina, Forano, Poggio Mirteto, Roccantica, Salisano. It was the birthplace of the medieval historian Gregory of Catino.

The land on which stands the present village was known and exploited since the time of the Romans who, like the rest of

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<sup>85</sup> With thanks to <http://giorgiopintus.blogspot.com.es>

## **The History of Alquerque-12. Remaining countries. Volume II.**

the entire region Sabine built nearby rural residences. The origin of the town as a separate and distinct territorial unit may, however, be traced back to the late seventh century AD. Then some Farae Lombard, diverting their progress toward the Sabine, gave rise to many of the villages in the area today, including the first urban settlement on the edge of the "bowl " at the base of the mountain natural Tancia from which today's agglomeration borrowed its name.

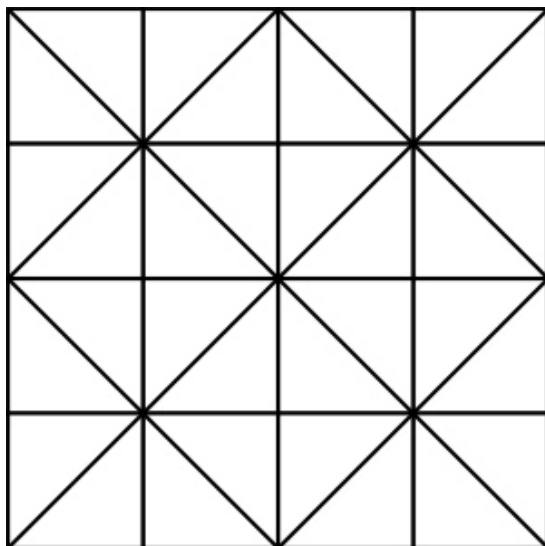
The narrow space near the building Catino determined, then, the beginning of the peopling of the nearby hill Moricone, resulting in the birth of the new town, later known as Poggio Catino. The process of building the new town can be said to be established in the period before 1093, the date on which it is already recorded in the registers of the Abbey of Farfa, the existence and consistency of the new Castrum.



**Catino in all its glory, courtesy of Giorgio Clementi**

## The History of Alquerque-12. Remaining countries. Volume II.

The drawing of alquerque-12 at Toffia, in the province of Rieti that belongs to the region of Lazio.



Visitors will observe an alquerque-12 board on an oval stone table (called the “Marmo di Piazza”) in the historical center, at the corner of Piazza Lauretana<sup>86</sup>. This stone has the distinction of having a fantastic sound and, therefore it was used to control the sound of coins in transactions. In this case too, we have no photo available to us, so we have to suffice with a drawing.

Toffia is a commune (municipality) in the Province of Rieti in the Italian region Latium, located about 40 km northeast of

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<sup>86</sup> **UBERTI, Marisa** (2012). The Merels board enigma. With the worldwide census of Merels boards, p. 304.

## **The History of Alquerque-12. Remaining countries. Volume II.**

Rome and about 25 km southwest of Rieti. As of 31 December 2004, it had a population of 948 and an area of 11.2 km². Toffia borders the following municipalities: Castelnuovo di Farfa, Fara in Sabina, Nerola, Poggio Nativo.

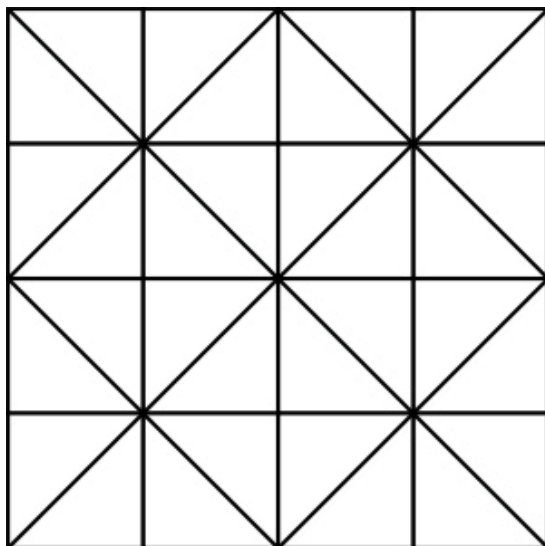
Although the news about the birth of the country is rare, fragmentary manuscripts and medieval parchments informs us of the date of the founding of the "castrum Tophiae " at the early tenth century. A number of recent archaeological discoveries show also that the area of Toffia was already inhabited from the late Bronze Age, about 1200-2000 years before Christ. Most of the historical buildings of Toffia were built in this period. In addition to the previously mentioned Palazzo Orsini (1400), the present headquarters of the municipality, are also worthy of note Oddoni House (1300) and Palazzo Ruffetti (1400) in Via Porta Maggiore, Palazzo Palma (1600) and House in Via Montecavallo Orsini (1300), Via Castel Di Dentro.



**The Village of Toffia**

## The History of Alquerque-12. Remaining countries. Volume II.

The drawing of alquerque-12 at Roma, in the province of Rieti that belongs to the region of Lazio.



Viewers will observe an alquerque-12 board in the hall entrance, at the foot of the iron gate in the cloister, on the covering slabs of the paraset of the Basilica of San Lorenzo Fuori le Mura (IV century, later changed)<sup>87</sup>. In this case too, we have no photo available to us, so we have to suffice with a drawing.

Before the current basilica was constructed, the grounds upon which it sits was once home to a small oratory built by Emperor Constantine I. The emperor built it over the site on which it was believed that Saint Lawrence was executed. In the 580s, Pope Pelagius II commissioned the construction of a

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<sup>87</sup> **UBERTI, Marisa** (2012). The Merels board enigma. With the worldwide census of Merels boards, p. 305.



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church over the site, in honor of the martyr. In the 13th century, Pope Honorius III commissioned the construction of another church in front of the older structure. The two structures were united as part of a program of urban renewal. Excavations have revealed several other crypts of different people, buried below street level. Saint Hilarius is buried here. The portico, c. 1220 has Cosmatesque decoration by the Vassaletti family of craftsmen. The 13th-century frescoes, which have been recently reconstructed, depict scenes from the lives of St Stephen and St Lawrence, both deacons and martyrs.



**Facade of San Lorenzo Fuori le Mura, Rome.**

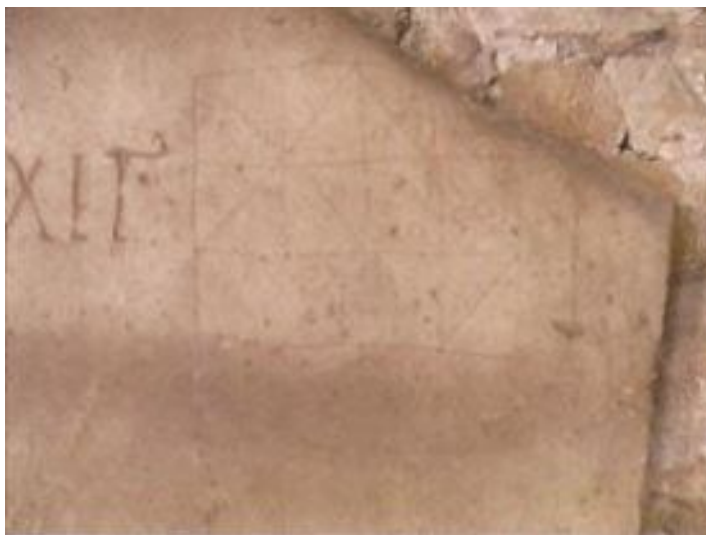
[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:San\\_Lorenzo\\_fuori\\_le\\_mura\\_-\\_facade.jpg](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:San_Lorenzo_fuori_le_mura_-_facade.jpg)

Photo: Panairjdde

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## **The History of Alquerque-12. Remaining countries. Volume II.**

**The drawing of alquerque-12 at Roma, in the province of Rieti that belongs to the region of Lazio.**



**Alquerque-12 drawing in the Basilica “Four Crowned Saints”**

There are esoteric symbols in the church of the Basilica of the Four Crowned Saints and among them we find an alquerque-12 drawing<sup>88</sup>.

Basilica of the Four Crowned Saints is located in the Celio district of Rome, on the hill. The names of the four titular saints, according to the Pontifical Academy Cultorum Martyrum, which puts you at a station Monday of the Fourth Week of Lent are: Castor, Sinfroniano, Claudio and

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<sup>88</sup> With thanks to: <http://acinsnewsciences.wordpress.com/2011/11/26/chiesa-dei-4-santi-coronati-simboli-esoterici-nel-chiostro-della-chiesa/>

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Nicostrato, commemorated on November 8 and become the symbol of Freemasonry. Here's how he describes the history of the Four Crowned Jacobus de Voragine in the "Golden Legend".



**Church of the Quattro Santi Coronati**

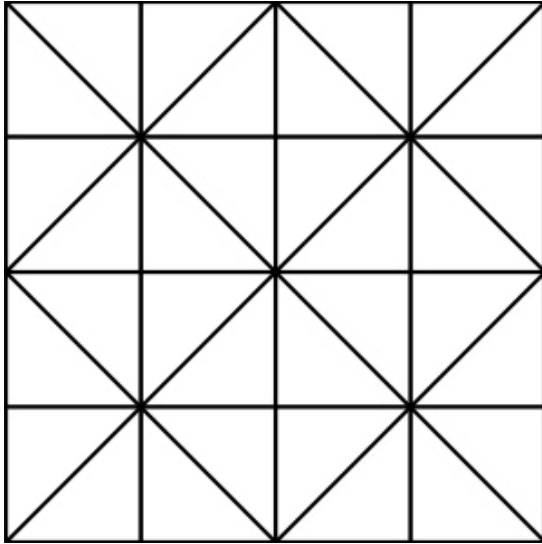
**The History of Alquerque-12. Remaining countries.  
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**Region of Abruzzo**

## The History of Alquerque-12. Remaining countries. Volume II.

The drawing of an vertical alquerque-12 at Atesa, in the province of Chieti that belongs to the region of Abruzzo.



The Church of San Leucio (XIII century) in Atesa has an vertical alquerque-12 board on the left jamb of the central portal<sup>89</sup>. In this case too, we have no photo available to us, so we have to suffice with a drawing.

The first church dedicated to Saint Leucio dates back to 874 as ascertained from documentary sources. A restoration took place in 1312, during which it would have made the rosette from the Lanciano's school of Francesco Petrini and the symbolic representations of the four evangelists.

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<sup>89</sup> **UBERTI, Marisa** (2012). The Merels board enigma. With the worldwide census of Merels boards, p. 309.

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**Facade of the Chiesa San Leucio at Atessa.**

[http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Cattedrale\\_San\\_Leucio\\_Atessa.JPG](http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Cattedrale_San_Leucio_Atessa.JPG)

Photo: Zitumassin

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**The drawing of an alquerque-12 on the Church of Saint Stephen at Pizzoli, in the province of L'Aquila that belongs to the region of Abruzzo.**



**An alquerque-12 at the church of Saint Stefano<sup>90</sup>**

At the church of Saint Stefano in Monte Pizzoli, there is on the facade down a left incision of the alquerque-12. The Church of Santo Stefano has a massive belltower on the left of the facade and XVI century frescoes inside. The church is of the XIII-XIV century.

Pizzoli rose near the remains of the ancient Roman town of Amiternum and was probably a suburb of this Roman town. In 1185 "Castrum Piczolum" belonged to Gentile Vetulo. In the

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<sup>90</sup> With thanks to [giorgiopintus.blogspot.com.es](http://giorgiopintus.blogspot.com.es)

## The History of Alquerque-12. Remaining countries. Volume II.

Middle Ages Pizzoli (*Castrum Piczoli*) was one of the castles that took part to the foundation of the city of L'Aquila, where Pizzoli had an area in the quarter of San Pietro, building the church of San Lorenzo there. When in the early XVI century L'Aquila rebelled against Charles V, Pizzoli was given by the king to Captain Francesco Aldana (1533).

Pizzoli is a *comune* and town in the Province of L'Aquila in the Abruzzo region of Italy. It is located in the natural park known as the "Gran Sasso e Monti della Laga National Park".



**The church of Saint Stefano**

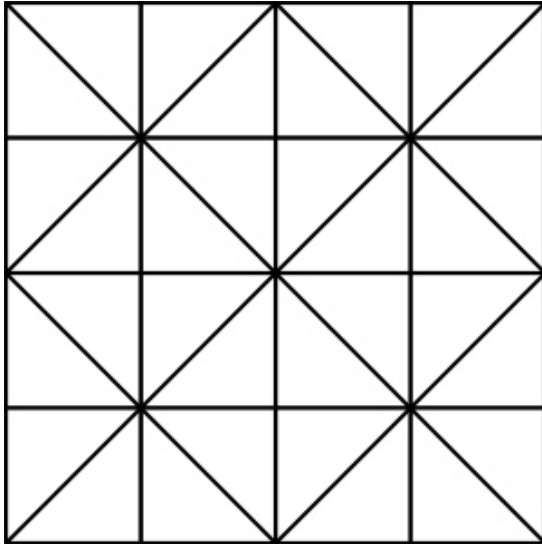
[http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Pizzoli\\_saint\\_Stephen\\_church.jpg](http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Pizzoli_saint_Stephen_church.jpg)

Photo: Winiar

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**The drawing of an vertical alquerque-12 at Castiglione a Causaria, in the province of Pescara that belongs to the region of Abruzzo.**



There exists a vertical alquerque-12 drawing on the outer wall, at the left of the porch, of the Abbey of San Clemente in Casauria<sup>91</sup>. In this case too, we have no photo available to us, so we have to suffice with a drawing.

The Abbey of San Clemente in Casauria is an monastery in the territory of Castiglione a Casauria, in the province of Pescara, Abruzzo, central Italy. The abbey was founded in 871 by Louis II, grand-grandson of Charlemagne, after a vow made during his imprisonment in the Duchy of Benevento. Initially entitled to the Holy Trinity, it was dedicated to St. Clement

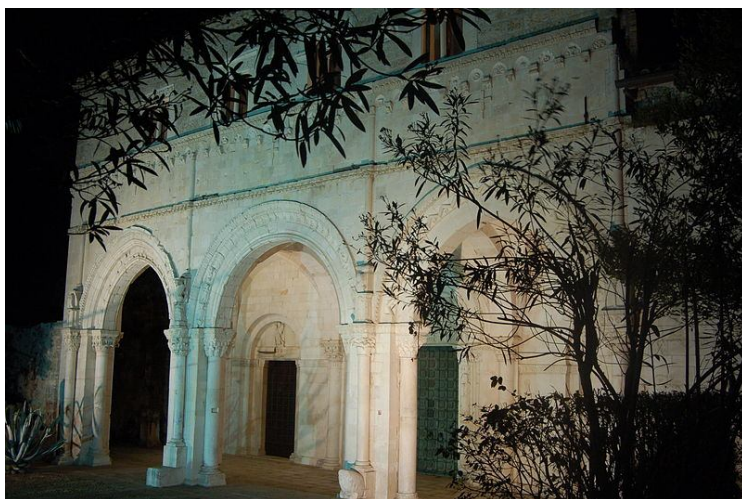
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<sup>91</sup> **UBERTI, Marisa** (2012). The Merels board enigma. With the worldwide census of Merels boards, p. 311.

## **The History of Alquerque-12. Remaining countries. Volume II.**

when the latter's remain were brought here in 872. In its history, the abbey was plundered several times: by the Saracens in 920 and frequently by the Norman count Malmozzetto between 1076 and 1097. After this destructive episode, the Benedictine abbot Grimoald promoted the rebuilding of the church, which was reconsecrated in 1105. However, the works ended only in the late 12th century under abbot Leonate (1152-82, cardinal from 1170).

Castiglione a Casauria is a commune and town in the province of Pescara in the Abruzzo region of Italy. It is located in the natural park known as the "Gran Sasso e Monti della Laga National Park".



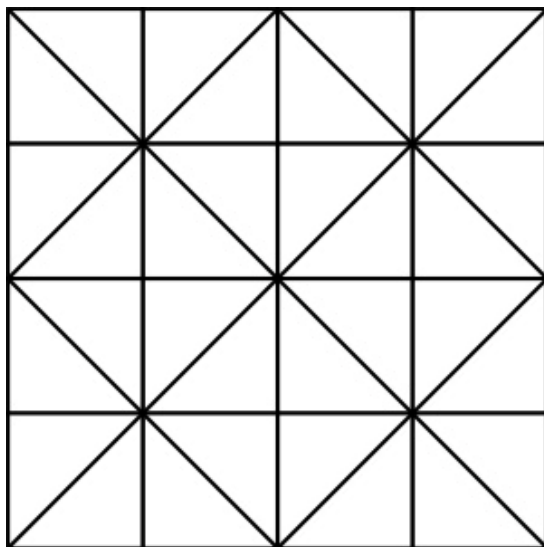
**Abbey of Saint Clemente at Castiglione a Casauria**

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Esterno\\_dell%27Abbazia\\_di\\_San\\_Clemente\\_a\\_Casauria.jpg](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Esterno_dell%27Abbazia_di_San_Clemente_a_Casauria.jpg)  
Photo: Simone Lannucci

(Image of: PHGCOM/Wikimedia Commons/GNU Free Documentation License, Version 1.2 or any later/Creative Commons Attribution-Share Alike 3.0 Unported, 2.5 Generic, 2.0 Generic and 1.0 Generic)

## **The History of Alquerque-12. Remaining countries. Volume II.**

**The drawing of an vertical alquerque-12 at Serramonacesca, in the province of Pescara that belongs to the region of Abruzzo.**



Another vertical alquerque-12 drawing exists in the Abbey of San Liberatore a Majella in the territory of Serramonacesca<sup>92</sup>.

The San Liberatore was once one of southern Italy's most famous Abbeys. There are many legends and tales about the creation of the abbey. It is said that in 781AD Charlemagne celebrated his army's victory over the Longobards by building a church, dedicated to Christ the Liberator, on the place where so many had fallen.

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<sup>92</sup> **UBERTI, Marisa** (2012). The Merels board enigma. With the worldwide census of Merels boards, p. 311.

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The origin of the abbey is traditionally linked to Charlemagne, who is portrayed in a fresco fragment within the church. The 9th century edifice was rebuilt a first time from 1007 by the Benedictine monk St. Theobald. It is dedicated to St. Liberator. The current edifice, however, is that rebuilt starting from 1080 by Desiderius, abbot of Montecassino. The church remained in a decaying state until it was restored in 1967-1971.



**Abbey of San Liberatore a Majella**

<http://wikimapia.org/10545150/Abbey-of-San-Liberatore-a-Majella#/photo/1569283>

Photo: Melq59

(Image of: PHGCOM/Wikimedia Commons/GNU Free Documentation License, Version 1.2 or any later/Creative Commons Attribution-Share Alike 3.0 Unported, 2.5 Generic, 2.0 Generic and 1.0 Generic)



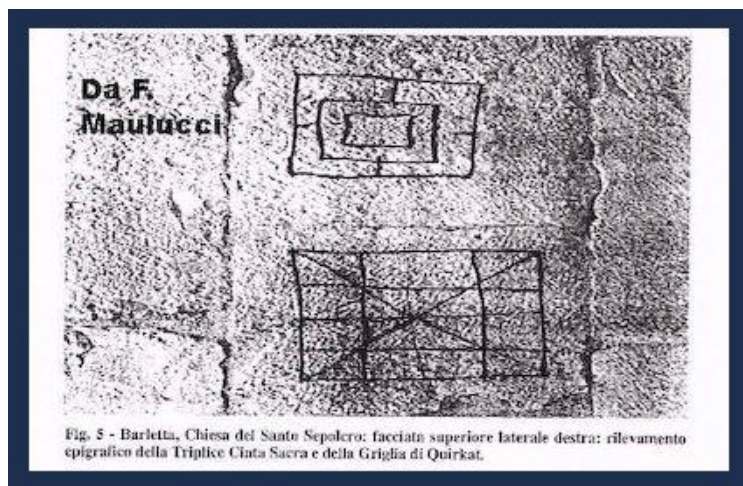
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**Region of Apulia**

## The History of Alquerque-12. Remaining countries. Volume II.

The drawing of a vertical alquerque-12 at Barletta, in the province of Barletta-Andria-Trani that belongs to the the Region of Apulia.



An alquerque drawing is to be found on the upper facade, on the top right side of one of the blocks of the Abbey of Saint Sepolcro<sup>93</sup>.

The Basilica of the Holy Sepulchre is one of the main churches of Barletta. As its own name says, the origins of the church keep a close relationship with the Holy Land and the tomb of Jesus Christ. Located in a strategic position between two ancient roads and principal axes of communication, the Adriatic road and the Via Traiana, which leads to Rome, the church has been a place of transit for pilgrims to the Holy Land and the Crusaders on the road, from the port of Barletta, towards Jerusalem. The basilica was built on the ruins of the

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<sup>93</sup> **UBERTI, Marisa** (2012). The Merels board enigma. With the worldwide census of Merels boards, p. 312.

## **The History of Alquerque-12. Remaining countries. Volume II.**

medieval basilica, which was leaning against the ancient hospital of pilgrims and dates back to the period between the end of the twelfth century and the beginning of the twelfth century. The current building is the result of thousands of years and many transformations. Anyway, the origins of the medieval basilica are difficult to date. Many historians and archaeologists have debated on this topic and most of them, basing themselves on the theories of the documents found, place it in the period between the eleventh and twelfth centuries. The oldest original construction year goes back to 1061 and then the construction period of the Holy Sepulchre was attributed to a period prior to the Crusades and the birth of the Order of the Holy Sepulcher.



**Abbadia Saint Sepolcro of Barletta**

[http://it.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Barletta\\_Basilica\\_del\\_Santo\\_Sepolcro\\_Prospetto\\_Nord.jpeg](http://it.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Barletta_Basilica_del_Santo_Sepolcro_Prospetto_Nord.jpeg)  
Photo: Achille83

(Image of: PHGCOM/Wikimedia Commons/GNU Free Documentation License, Version 1.2 or any later/Creative Commons Attribution-Share Alike 3.0 Unported, 2.5 Generic, 2.0

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**The drawing of alquerque-12 found on a medieval sacred stone near the church Santa Caterina at Canosa di Apulia, Province of Barletta-Andria-Trani of the Region Apulia.**

There exists a vertical drawing of an alquerque-12 drawing on a block of stone basement, near the entrance gate, on the left, of the church of Santa Catherine at Canosina di Apulia<sup>94</sup>.



**An alquerque-12 a block of stone basement  
Courtesy of G. Malcangio**

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<sup>94</sup> **UBERTI, Marisa** (2012). The Merels board enigma. With the worldwide census of Merels boards, p. 312.

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Identical graffiti are found in the ceiling of a cave in Larchens in France, in Santa Prudeniana Visciano at Narni (TN), in the Lunigiana in Liguria and Tuscany columns, in the paths of the paths of the Knights Templar returning from the Crusades. It will be clear that these types of drawing have little to do with the game alquerque-12, because they had another meaning.



**Cappella di Santa Caterina**  
Courtesy of <http://www.comune.canosa.bt.it>

That, which we mistakenly call the Church of Saint Catherine, is “in fact” a chapel for devotional use for the Liturgical Feast on November 25th, the anniversary of the Martyrdom of Saint Catherine. During historical research thanks to a parchment of 1935, which is located in the Cathedral Church of Barletta, we know that it was founded in 1651 by a nobleman for private devotion to Saint Catherine.



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**The drawing of alquerque-12 at the Cathedral of Trani,  
province of Barletta-Andria-Trani of the Region of Apulia.**



**A half alquerque-12 drawing in the Cathedral  
Photo: courtesy of G. Malcangio**

Visitors will observe on the base of the belltower a half alquerque-12 drawing in the Cathedral of San Nicola Pellegrino. The drawing is situated In front of the central column, dividing the arc into two parts<sup>95</sup>. Very near to that place there is another alquerque-12 drawing; this time a complete one.

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<sup>95</sup> **UBERTI, Marisa** (2012). The Merels board enigma. With the worldwide census of Merels boards, p. 315.



## **The History of Alquerque-12. Remaining countries. Volume II.**

Tradition says that Nicholas the Pilgrim had landed in Trani, imminence his death, which would take place after many miracles. Therefore, he was canonized, presumably at the suggestion of Urban II. In 1099, the church was built on the basis of the oldest one of Santa Maria della Scala.

The first house of worship dates back to the fourth century, as evidenced by recent archaeological excavations. On a later date, the church of Santa Maria was built. The relics of Saint Nicholas were placed in the lower part of the church. The cathedral was consecrated prior to completion. The decisive phase of construction was probably between 1159 and 1186 on the request of Bishop Bertrand II. Around 1200, the end was considered to be reached, except for the bell tower.



**Another alquerque-12 drawing in the Cathedral of Trani**

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**Catedral of San Nicola Pellegrino**

[http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Cattedrale\\_Trani\\_apr06\\_01.jpg](http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Cattedrale_Trani_apr06_01.jpg)

Photo: Marcok

(Image of: PHGCOM/Wikimedia Commons/GNU Free Documentation License, Version 1.2 or any later/Creative Commons Attribution-Share Alike 3.0 Unported, 2.5 Generic, 2.0 Generic and 1.0 Generic)

## **The History of Alquerque-12. Remaining countries. Volume II.**

**The alquerque-12 drawing at Troia, province of Foggia,  
region of Apulia.**



There is an oblique alquerque-12 drawing on a halfhidden stone, along the path leading to near the Romanesque cathedral of Troia<sup>96</sup>.

The cathedral of Troia in Apulia, Italy, is dedicated to the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Built in the first quarter of the 12th century, it is a reckoned masterpiece of Apulian Romanesque architecture. The cathedral is a building in the Latin cross from the important features of unquestionable value and architectural site in Troia. The construction took place between the years 1093 and 1125.

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<sup>96</sup> **UBERTI, Marisa** (2012). The Merels board enigma. With the worldwide census of Merels boards, p. 314.

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**Catedral of Troia**

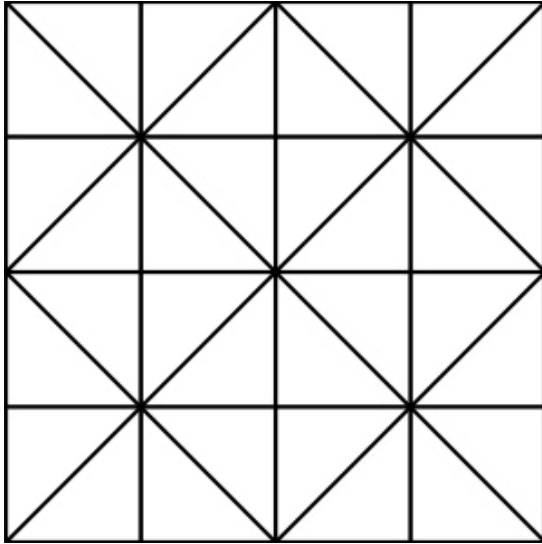
[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Cattedrale\\_di\\_Troia\\_09.jpg](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Cattedrale_di_Troia_09.jpg)

Photo: Barambani

(Image of: PHGCOM/Wikimedia Commons/GNU Free Documentation License, Version 1.2 or any later/Creative Commons Attribution-Share Alike 3.0 Unported, 2.5 Generic, 2.0 Generic and 1.0 Generic)

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**Alquerque-12 drawing at the cathedral of Lecce, in the province of Lecce that belongs to the region of Apulia.**



There is an alquerque-12 drawing on a stone bench, on the left of the altar, in the crypt of the Cathedral Lucece<sup>97</sup>. In this case too, we have no photo available to us, so we have to suffice with a drawing.

The cathedral was first built in 1144, with repairs in 1230. It was rebuilt in 1659 by the architect Giuseppe Zimbalo by order of bishop Luigi Pappacoda. The cathedral has two entrances. The principal one is on the north side of the church,

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<sup>97</sup> **UBERTI, Marisa** (2012). The Merels board enigma. With the worldwide census of Merels boards, p. 315.

## **The History of Alquerque-12. Remaining countries. Volume II.**

the other on the square onto which it faces. The principal frontage is sober and elegant while the second portal is a masterpiece of Baroque art.

The church is built on a Latin cross plan with a nave and two aisles, separated by pillars and pilasters. There are twelve altars. In the cathedral square are other monuments: the bell tower, the bishop's palace and the seminary.



**Catedral of Maria Santissima Assunta**

[http://it.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Cattedrale\\_e\\_Campanile\\_di\\_Lecce.jpg](http://it.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Cattedrale_e_Campanile_di_Lecce.jpg)

Photo: Lupiae

(Image of: PHGCOM/Wikimedia Commons/GNU Free Documentation License, Version 1.2 or any later/Creative Commons Attribution-Share Alike 3.0 Unported, 2.5 Generic, 2.0 Generic and 1.0 Generic)



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**Alquerque-12 drawing at San Cesario di Lecce, in the province of Lecce that belongs to the region of Apulia.**



### **An Alquerque-12 drawing on a medieval sarcophagus**

There exists an alquerque-12 drawing on a medieval sarcophagus in the church of San Giovanni Evangelista. In this case we can see it on the long side of the front part<sup>98</sup>. The church of “San Giovanni Evangelista” was built between 1320 and 1321 by the will of the priest Michele di Sternatia as an epigraph internal report. The interior has a single nave, has a cycle of frescoes in Byzantine style by a Greek inscription dated to 1329.

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<sup>98</sup> **UBERTI, Marisa** (2012). The Merels board enigma. With the worldwide census of Merels boards, p. 315.

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**The church of San Giovanni Evangelista**

[http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Chiesa\\_San\\_Giovanni\\_Evangelista\\_San\\_Cesario\\_di\\_Lecce.jpg](http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Chiesa_San_Giovanni_Evangelista_San_Cesario_di_Lecce.jpg)

Photo: Lupiae

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**Region of Sicily**

## **The History of Alquerque-12. Remaining countries. Volume II.**

**The drawing of a horizontal alquerque-12 in the Cathedral of Cefalù, in the province of Palermo that belongs to the region of Sicily.**



**Alquerque drawing I**

Visitors will observe two forms of horizontal alquerque-12 drawings along the front steps of the cathedral of Cefalù.

The Cathedral-Basilica of Cefalù is a Roman Catholic church in Cefalù, Sicily, Italy. The cathedral, dating from 1131, was commenced in the Norman style, the island of Sicily having been conquered by the Normans in 1091. According to tradition, the building was erected after a vow made to the Holy Saviour by the King of Sicily, Roger II. This was done, when he escaped from a storm and was able to land on the city's beach.

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The fortress-like character of the building, which, seen from a distance, rises as a huge mass above its medieval town, may in part reflect the vulnerability of the position to attack from the sea. It also made a powerful statement of the Norman presence. Numerous changes were made over succeeding centuries and the edifice was never entirely completed.



**Alquerque drawing II**

The Cathedral was built in an area of ancient and continuing population as attested by the findings of a Roman road and a Palaeo-Christian mosaic. Construction began in 1131, the apse mosaics begun in 1145 and the sarcophagi that Roger II provided for his tomb and that of his wife were put in this place the same year.

After 1172, the church suffered a period of decline, and in 1215, Frederick II of Hohenstaufen moved the two sarcophagi

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to the Cathedral of Palermo. Construction of the cathedral was resumed shortly after, the facade being completed in 1240. The Cathedral was consecrated in 1267 by Rodolphe de Chevières, Bishop of Albano.

In 1472, a portico, by Ambrogio da Como, was added between the two towers of the facade.



**Catedral of Cefalù**

<http://it.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:CatedralCefalu.JPG>

Photo: Josep Renalias

(Image of: PHGCOM/Wikimedia Commons/GNU Free Documentation License, Version 1.2 or any later/Creative Commons Attribution-Share Alike 3.0 Unported, 2.5 Generic, 2.0 Generic and 1.0 Generic)



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**The drawing of a horizontal alquerque-12 in the Rock-church of San Nicolò Inferiore at Modica, province Ragusa in the region of Sicily.**



**An alquerque-12 in the Rock-church of San Nicolò Inferiore<sup>99</sup>**

There exists a horizontal alquerque-12 drawing on a slab in an excavation area with graves inside the Rock-church of San Nicolò Inferiore<sup>100</sup>.

The Rock-church of San Nicolò Inferiore presents magnificent frescoes on the bare rock of late-Byzantine style, dating from the twelfth, and the sixteenth century (the year 1594 is painted on the rock next to a picture). This is an artificial cave, in the

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<sup>99</sup> With thanks to: <http://giorgiopintus.blogspot.com.es>

<sup>100</sup> **UBERTI, Marisa** (2012). The Merels board enigma. With the worldwide census of Merels boards, p. 317.

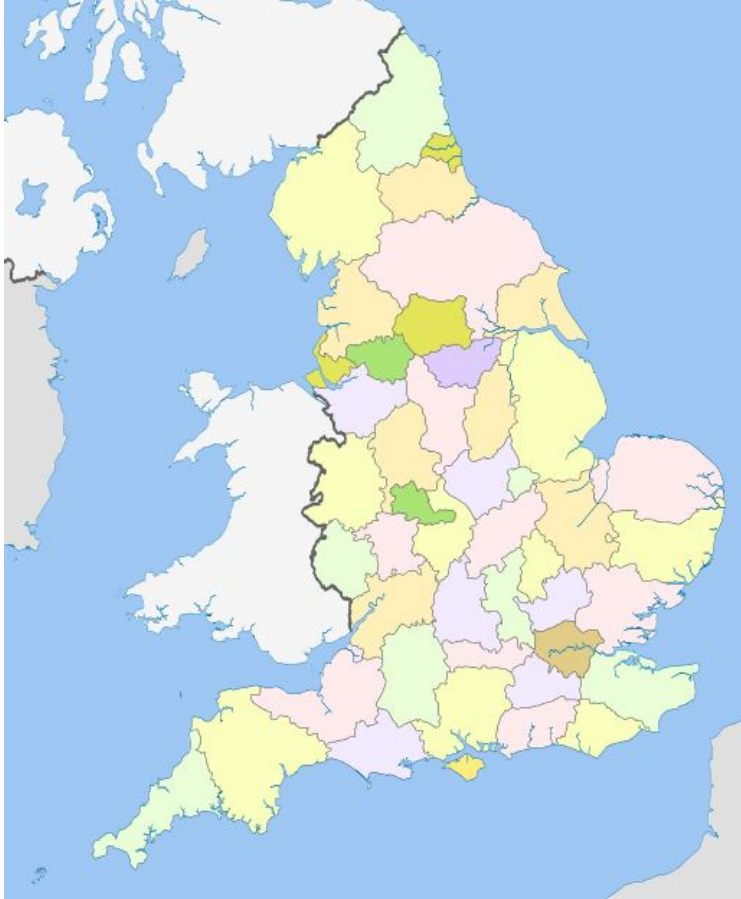
## **The History of Alquerque-12. Remaining countries. Volume II.**

city center, in which one observes several cycles of frescoes, a cave church defined by scholars unique in the scene of medieval Sicily. The main fresco is a beautiful Christ Pantocrator in the center of the apse, where it depicts a Christ blessing encased in an almond sitting on a throne between two pairs of Angels. On the right side of the apse, there is a baptismal basin, excavated in the rock, for the baptism with the Eastern Rite. Last in order of time, some excavations have brought to light a series of crypts and tombs in earth.



**The Rock-church of San Nicolò Inferiore  
Photo: cavalierefiero**

## **UNITED KINGDOM**



**England**

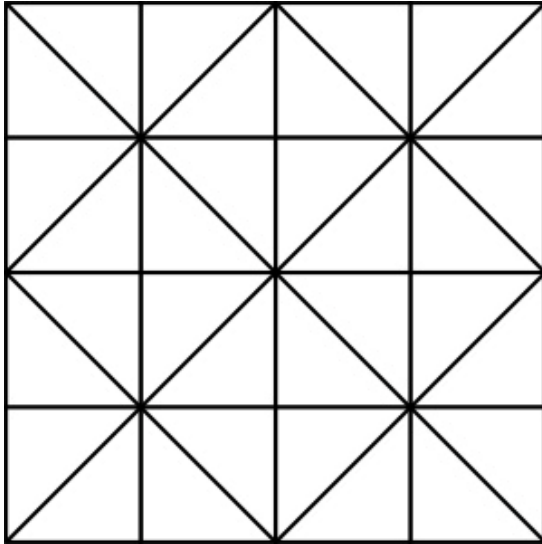
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**County of East Riding of Yorkshire**

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**An Alquerque-12 drawing, inventory number 14486, appears at the Kingston Hull Museum, Kingston-upon-Hull, East Riding of Yorkshire.**



There is an Alquerque-12 limestone drawing, inventory number 14486 that appears at the Kingston Hull Museum, Kingston-upon-Hull<sup>101</sup>. One does not know where the limestone was found, and the same can be said of the date.

In this case too, we have no photo available to us, so we have to suffice with a drawing. In this very moment, the small limestone with the alquerque-12 drawing is not for display purposes. Therefore, it is not possible to specify the museum of Kingston for this limestone.

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<sup>101</sup> [http://www.jocari.be/proddetail.php?prod=je51a\\_alquerque14486HullM](http://www.jocari.be/proddetail.php?prod=je51a_alquerque14486HullM)

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**Hull Maritime Museum**

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Hull\\_Maritime\\_Museum\\_-\\_geograph.org.uk\\_-\\_1260498.jpg](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Hull_Maritime_Museum_-_geograph.org.uk_-_1260498.jpg)

Photo: Paul Harrop

(Image of: PHGCOM/Wikimedia Commons/GNU Free Documentation License, Version 1.2 or any later/Creative Commons Attribution-Share Alike 3.0 Unported, 2.5 Generic, 2.0 Generic and 1.0 Generic)

The town of Hull was founded late in the 12th century. The monks of Meaux Abbey needed a port where the wool from their estates could be exported. They chose a place at the junction of the rivers Hull and Humber to build a quay. The exact year Hull was founded is not known, but it was first mentioned in 1193. It was called Wyke on Hull. Renamed Kings-town upon Hull by King Edward I in 1299, the town and city of Hull has served as a market town, military supply port, a trading hub, fishing and whaling centre, and industrial metropolis.



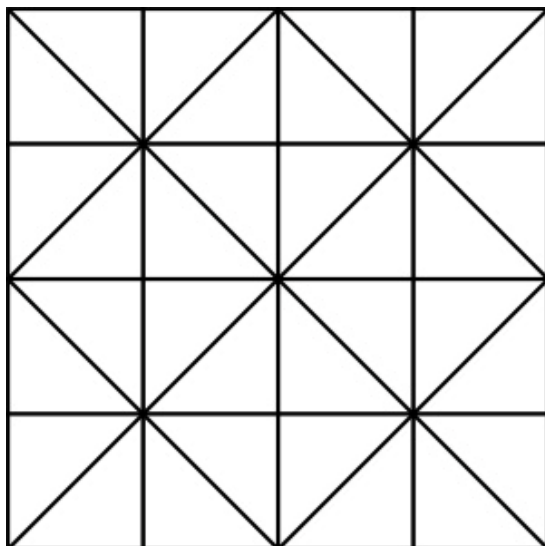
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**County of Lincolnshire**

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**Alquerque-12 on the stone seats around the Capitular Hall  
of the Lincoln Cathedral at Lincoln, Lincolnshire.**



There is an alquerque-12 on the stone seats around the Capitular Hall of the Lincoln Cathedral at Lincoln, Lincolnshire.

Lincoln Cathedral (in full The Cathedral Church of the Blessed Virgin Mary of Lincoln, or sometimes St. Mary's Cathedral) is a cathedral located in Lincoln in England and seat of the Bishop of Lincoln in the Church of England. Building commenced in 1088 and continued in several phases throughout the medieval period. It was reputedly the tallest building in the world for 238 years (1311–1549).

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**Lincoln Cathedral**

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Lincoln\\_Cathedral\\_from\\_Castle\\_Hill\\_%28crop%29.jpg](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Lincoln_Cathedral_from_Castle_Hill_%28crop%29.jpg)

Photo: Jungpionier

(Image of: PHGCOM/Wikimedia Commons/GNU Free Documentation License, Version 1.2 or any later/Creative Commons Attribution-Share Alike 3.0 Unported, 2.5 Generic, 2.0 Generic and 1.0 Generic)

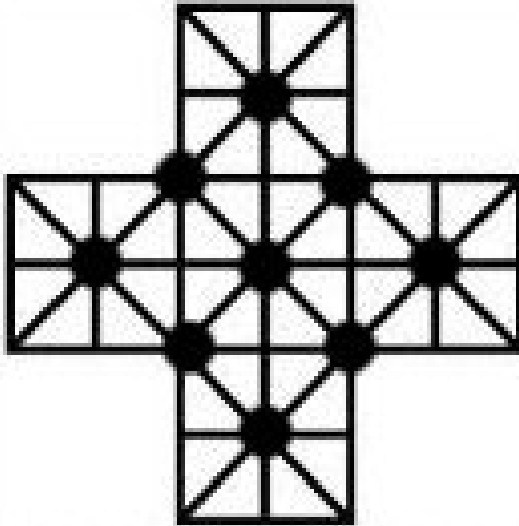
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**Country of Norfolk**

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**A fox and geese game drawing in the Castle Acre Priory of  
the village Castle Acre, Norfolk, Norwhich.**



There is a fox and gees game drawing in the Castle Acre Priory of Norwhich. Descriptions of the game are found in Greetis Saga an Icelandic poem written in 1300 AD. The game was also found in the household accounts of Edward the IV of England, who had the game made out of silver.

Castle Acre Priory, in the village of Castle Acre, Norfolk, England, is thought to have been founded in 1089 by William de Warenne the son the 1st Earl of Surrey who had founded England's first Cluniac priory at Lewes in 1077. The order originated from Burgundy. Originally the priory was sited within the walls of Castle Acre Castle, but this proved too small and inconvenient for the monks, hence the priory was relocated to the present site in the castle grounds about one year later.

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Like other Cluniac houses, Castle Acre Priory was directly subject to the authority of the Abbot of Cluny; for practical reasons, however, the Prior of Lewes was usually instructed to act for the abbot when any problems arose at Castle Acre. However, this obedience owed to a foreign abbot caused difficulties when the kings of England were at odds with France and/or Burgundy. In the mid 14th century the English Cluniacs settled this difficulty by buying a special legal recognition from the king as 'native' religious houses. The priory was home to some 20 to 30 monks.



**Castle Acre Priory**

[http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Castle\\_Acre\\_Priory.jpg](http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Castle_Acre_Priory.jpg)

Photo: Ron Strutt

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In 1892, Mr J. T. Micklethwaite<sup>102</sup> was able to prove that certain "cup markings" were the work of school boys. His comments as to the age of these interesting survivals are as follows:

"For the last three centuries and a half cloisters everywhere in England have been open passages, and there have generally been school-boys about. It is therefore not unlikely that they should have left behind them such traces as these play-boards. But if they are of later date they would not be found to be distributed in monastic cloisters with respect to the monastic arrangement, and we do find them so. At Westminster Abbey they are only found in the north-west corner, which if the arrangement agreed with that of Durham, as there is reason to believe it did, was the place of the school. At Norwich, where the game boards are very many, they are found in every part of the cloister except the north walk, where the monks had their library and studies. At Gloucester the morris and fox and geese boards are in the north walk and the simpler in and out boards in the west walk and none is found in the south, which was the monks' side, or in the east, which was most used by them as a passage way. At Canterbury the play boards are found only in the south walk, which is that against the church, and so according to the usual plan it would be the monks' place. But I think it was not so there, as that walk was the passage between the Archbishop's palace and the quire. We do not really know what the arrangement of the cloister was at Canterbury".

"In the secular cloister of Salisbury the boards are only found in the east walk between the Chapter House door and that towards the Bishop's Palace. I can give no reason for this, unless it be that a school was kept there, which is not unlikely. We know that till comparatively late times school

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<sup>102</sup> MICKLETHWAITE, J.T. (1894). On the Indoor Games of School Boys in the Middle Ages. In: *Archaeol. Journal*, vol. xlix. pp. 319-328.

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was held in the cloister at Winchester College during the summer”.

"As the games themselves did not die out, it is remarkable that all the boards noticed are cut upon stone or wood, which was wrought at the latest before the middle of the sixteenth century, and this is a further confirmation of their antiquity."

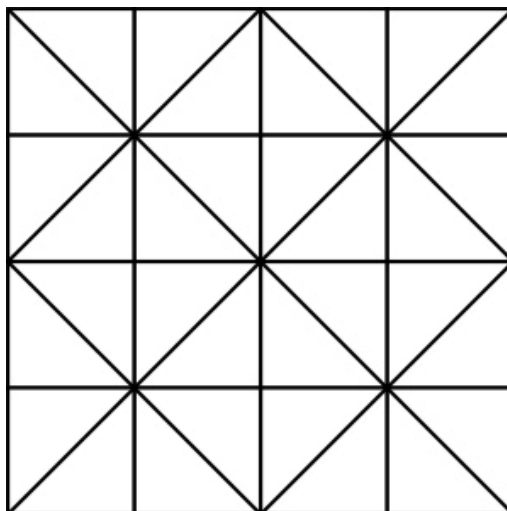
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**County of Cambridgeshire**

## **The History of Alquerque-12. Remaining countries. Volume II.**

### **A vertical Alquerque-12 drawing in the Saint Nicholas Church of Great Wilbraham, Cambridgeshire.**



There exist two vertical Alquerque-12 drawings on the four pillars marking the intersection between the aisle and the transept of Saint Nicholas Church of Great Wilbraham<sup>103</sup>. The Parish Church of St Nicholas, Great Wilbraham is typical of many village churches found across the shires of England.

There is known to have been a church in the Wilbrahams in Anglo-Saxon times as it is mentioned in a 10th Century document recording the grant by Wulfun of a church and forty acres to the newly formed Denny Abbey when he became a monk, probably in 970. By 984, the Abbey had given it to Aethelwold, Bishop of Winchester. After the conquest, the

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<sup>103</sup> **UBERTI, Marisa** (2012). The Merels board enigma. With the worldwide census of Merels boards, p. 212.

## **The History of Alquerque-12. Remaining countries. Volume II.**

church was probably attached to the Richmond fee. In 1160, the Church was given to Ely Priory's newly formed cell at Denny, and by the turn of the century the monks had granted it to the Knights Templars. We do not know whether the Anglo Saxon building, or the early Norman church that replaced it, stood on the same site as the present building. The present building dates mainly from the 13th century, when the Knights Templars undertook substantial rebuilding<sup>104</sup>.



**The St. Nicholas Church**

[http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:St\\_Nicholas\\_Great\\_Wilbraham.jpg](http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:St_Nicholas_Great_Wilbraham.jpg)

Photo: Hogweard

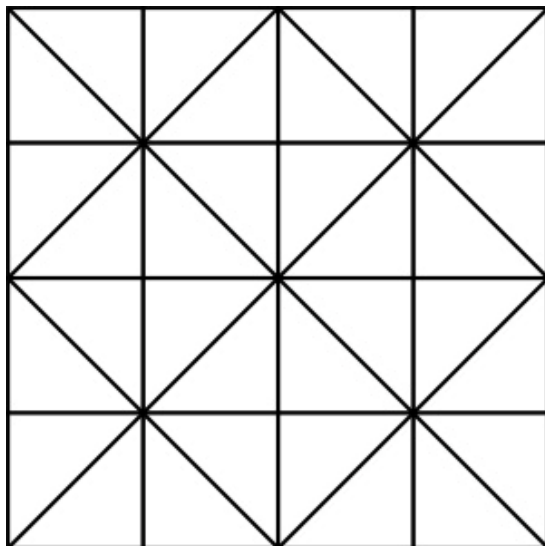
(Image of: PHGCOM/Wikimedia Commons/GNU Free Documentation License, Version 1.2 or any later/Creative Commons Attribution-Share Alike 3.0 Unported, 2.5 Generic, 2.0 Generic and 1.0 Generic)

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<sup>104</sup> <http://www.fulbournandthewilbrahams.org/fulbournpcc/DisplayArticle.asp?ID=8924>

## The History of Alquerque-12. Remaining countries. Volume II.

**A vertical Alquerque-12 drawing in the Denny Abbey, known as the previous Benedictine Abbey of Waterbeach, Cambridgeshire.**



There exists a vertical Alquerque-12 drawing in the Denny Abbey, known as the previous Benedictine Abbey that then became a nursing home for the elder and ill Knights Templar<sup>105</sup>. The Denny Abbey is currently used as a museum. The whole site is a scheduled ancient monument. A group of Benedictine monks, dependent upon Ely Abbey, moved here from their water-logged monastery at Elmeney (a vanished settlement about a mile to the northeast) in the 1150s, at the suggestion of Duke Conan IV of Brittany. They built a church and monastery, called Denny Priory, which opened in 1159. The crossing and transepts are the only parts of the original

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<sup>105</sup> **UBERTI, Marisa** (2012). The Merels board enigma. With the worldwide census of Merels boards, p. 212.



## **The History of Alquerque-12. Remaining countries. Volume II.**

abbey that remain today. In 1169, the monks returned to Ely, and the site was transferred to the Knights Templar. The Templars built a number of additions, including a large Norman-style arched doorway and a Refectory.



**The Denny Abbey**

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Denny\\_Abbey\\_2.JPG](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Denny_Abbey_2.JPG)

Photo: Rob Enwiki

(Image of: PHGCOM/Wikimedia Commons/GNU Free Documentation License, Version 1.2 or any later/Creative Commons Attribution-Share Alike 3.0 Unported, 2.5 Generic, 2.0 Generic and 1.0 Generic)

By the end of the 13th century, the Knights had lost their power, and in 1308 King Edward II had all the members of the Order arrested and imprisoned for alleged heresy, confiscating their property. Denny was then given to the Knights Hospitallers, who took no active interest in the property. In 1324, it was taken back by the Crown.

**The History of Alquerque-12. Remaining countries.  
Volume II.**



**County of Suffolk**

## **The History of Alquerque-12. Remaining countries. Volume II.**

### **The drawing of alquerque-12 on a chancel tomb at St. Mary's church at Cavendish, Suffolk.**

At the east end of the south aisle of this church is what at first appears to be a stone altar, but on closer inspection is a tomb chest for Sir George Colt, who died in 1570, others say 1578. Precisely on this stone altar was scratched a board for an alquerque-12 board according to Murray<sup>106</sup>, but others say that it is an alquerque-9 board. So this has to be investigated further.



**Purbeck marble chest tomb of Sir George Colt  
Photo: Courtesy of © Eric Hardy**

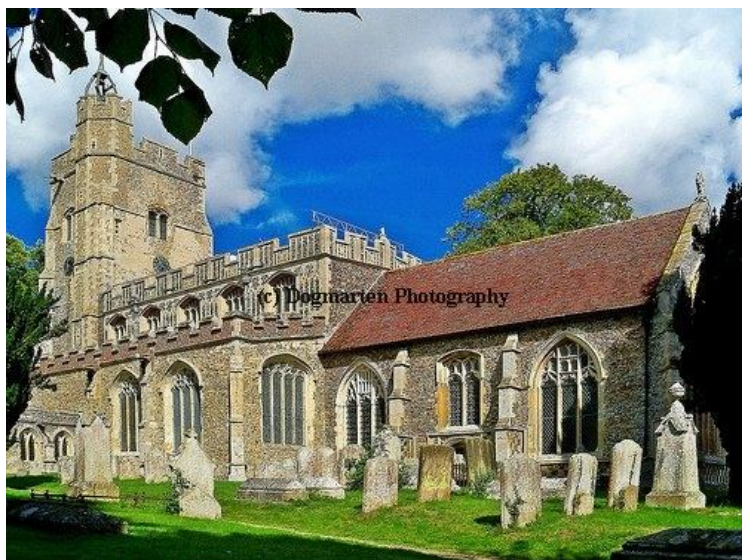
Thanks to Mr. Bruce Hatton I came in the possession of a very nice photograph of the church in question. The church is in

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<sup>106</sup> MURRAY, Harold James Ruthven. (1952) A history of Board-games other than chess, Oxford, p. 66.

## **The History of Alquerque-12. Remaining countries. Volume II.**

one of the prettiest settings of any in Suffolk with half-timbered, thatched cottages clustered round it. The elegant exterior reflects the immense wealth of the Middle Ages with its impressive stair turret on the 14th century tower rising above the battlements.



**St. Mary's church at Cavendish (Suffolk)**  
**Photo: Courtesy of © Dogmarten Photography**

A Saxon church stood on the site, then a Norman church; another church was started in the 14th century and in 1381 Sir John Cavendish built the chancel. Sir John Cavendish was Chief Justice of the King's Bench in the reign of Richard II and beheaded during the Peasants Revolt of 1381. The north aisle, nave arcade, and clerestory, were added in the 15th century, and the Victorians had another go in 1862.

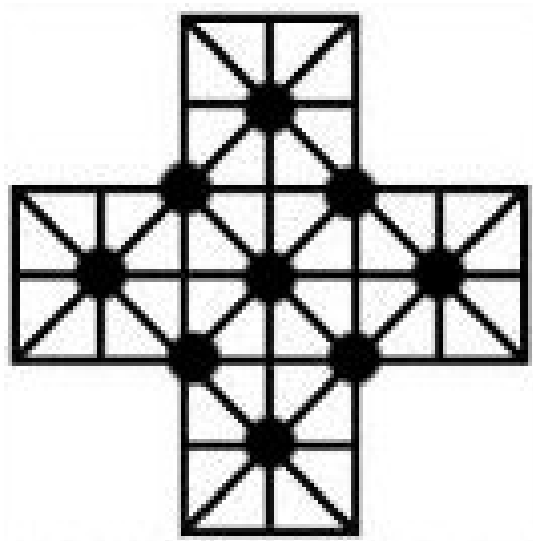
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**County of Gloucestershire**

**The History of Alquerque-12. Remaining countries.  
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**A fox and geese game drawing in the Cathedral cloister of  
Gloucester, Gloucestershire.**



Fox and Geese has been classified as a Viking game, but it is not certain that the Vikings ever played this game. In Gloucester Cathedral, according to Murray, there are several horizontal Fox and Geese boards incised on the outer stone seats. The board found here only had diagonals and 13 geese. In the earliest form of the game that was played in England all pieces could move one space along the line to an unoccupied spot. Probably this game was played there in the XV century.



## **The History of Alquerque-12. Remaining countries. Volume II.**

Gloucester Cathedral, or the Cathedral Church of St Peter and the Holy and Indivisible Trinity, in Gloucester, England, stands in the north of the city near the River Severn. It originated in 678 or 679 with the foundation of an abbey dedicated to Saint Peter (dissolved by King Henry VIII). The foundations of the present church were laid by Abbot Serlo (1072–1104).



**Front view of the Gloucester Cathedral**

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Gloucester\\_Cathedral\\_exterior\\_front.jpg](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Gloucester_Cathedral_exterior_front.jpg)  
Photo: W. Lloyd MacKenzie, via Flickr @ [http://www.flickr.com/photos/saffron\\_blaze](http://www.flickr.com/photos/saffron_blaze)  
(Image of: PHGCOM/Wikimedia Commons/GNU Free Documentation License, Version 1.2 or any later/Creative Commons Attribution-Share Alike 3.0 Unported, 2.5 Generic, 2.0 Generic and 1.0 Generic)

**The History of Alquerque-12. Remaining countries.  
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**County of Greater London**

**The History of Alquerque-12. Remaining countries.  
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**The drawing of alquerque-12 at Hampton Court, East Molesey, Greater London.**



**Alquerque-12 drawing at Hampton Court Palace  
Photo: Courtesy of © Kit Logan Photography**

This alquerque-12 board was carved into the windowsill at Hampton Court palace.

Hampton Court Palace is a royal palace in the London Borough of Richmond upon Thames, Greater London, in the historic county of Middlesex, and within the postal town East Molesey. The palace is located 11.7 miles (18.8 kilometres) south west of Charing Cross and upstream of central London on the River Thames. It was originally built for Cardinal Thomas Wolsey, a favourite of King Henry VIII, circa 1514; in 1529, as Wolsey fell from favour, the palace was passed to the King, who enlarged it.

## **The History of Alquerque-12. Remaining countries. Volume II.**

The following century, King William III's massive rebuilding and expansion project intended to rival Versailles was begun. Work halted in 1694, leaving the palace in two distinct contrasting architectural styles, domestic Tudor and Baroque. While the palace's styles are an accident of fate, a unity exists due to the use of pink bricks and a symmetrical, albeit vague, balancing of successive low wings. Along with St. James's Palace, it is one of only two surviving palaces out of the many owned by King Henry VIII.

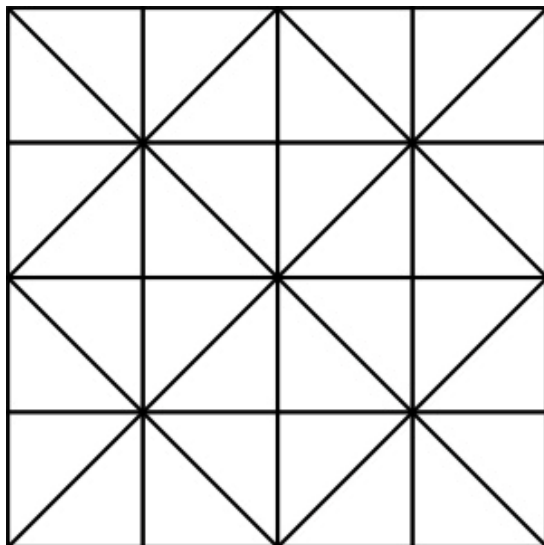
Today, the palace is open to the public and is a main tourist attraction, easily reached by train from Waterloo Station in central London and served by Hampton Court railway station in East Molesey, in Transport for London's Zone 6. The palace is cared for by an independent charity, Historic Royal Palaces, which receives no funding from the Government or the Crown.



**Hampton Court Palace**  
**Photo: Courtesy of © Kit Logan Photography**

## The History of Alquerque-12. Remaining countries. Volume II.

The drawing of a horizontal alquerque-12 board in the  
Victoria and Albert Museum, London.



The Victoria and Albert Museum in London has an Alquerque board on a game-box once in the possession of the Swiss Wappenwyll family<sup>107</sup>. Alberti<sup>108</sup> refers to the Victoria and Albert Museum, Manuscript of “Le Roman d’Alexandre”, Jehan de Gris (1339-1344).

The Victoria and Albert Museum in London, is the world's largest museum of decorative arts and design, housing a permanent collection of over 4.5 million objects. It was

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<sup>107</sup> **PENNICK, Nigel (1989)**. Secret games of the Gods: Ancient Ritual Systems in Board Games.

<sup>108</sup> **UBERTI, Marisa (2012)**. The Merels board enigma. With the worldwide census of Merels boards, p. 215. Ref. 96/1408 board, unknown origin (XV century).

## **The History of Alquerque-12. Remaining countries. Volume II.**

founded in 1852 and named after Queen Victoria and Prince Albert. The Musuem is located in the Brompton district of the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea, in an area that has become known as "Albertopolis" because of its association with Prince Albert, the Albert Memorial and the major cultural institutions with which he was associated. These include the Natural History Museum, the Science Museum and the Royal Albert Hall.



[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Victoria\\_%26\\_Albert\\_Museum\\_Entrance,\\_London,\\_UK\\_-\\_Diliff.jpg](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Victoria_%26_Albert_Museum_Entrance,_London,_UK_-_Diliff.jpg)

Photo: by David Iliff

(Image of: PHGCOM/Wikimedia Commons/GNU Free Documentation License, Version 1.2 or any later/Creative Commons Attribution-Share Alike 3.0 Unported, 2.5 Generic, 2.0



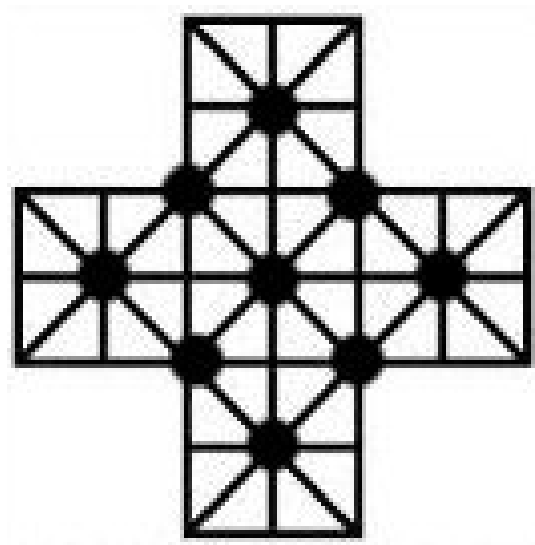
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**County of Wiltshire**

**The History of Alquerque-12. Remaining countries.  
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**A horizontal fox and geese game drawing in the Cathedral  
cloister of Salisbury, Wiltshire.**

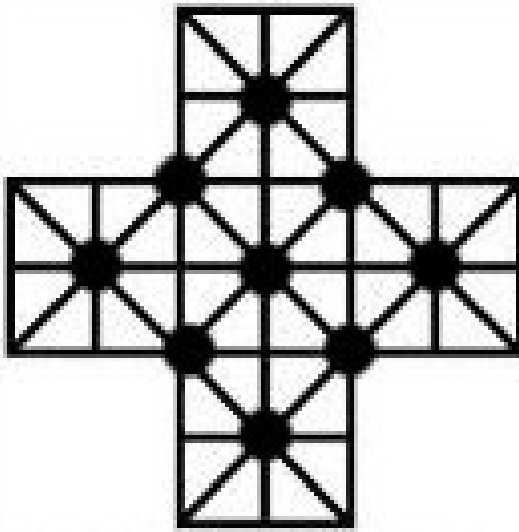


There is a horizontal fox and geese drawing in the cloister on the outer seats of the Cathedral of Salisbury.

Salisbury Cathedral, formally known as the Cathedral Church of the Blessed Virgin Mary, is an Anglican cathedral in Salisbury, England, and one of the leading examples of Early English architecture. The main body of the cathedral was completed in only 38 years, from 1220 to 1258.

**The History of Alquerque-12. Remaining countries.  
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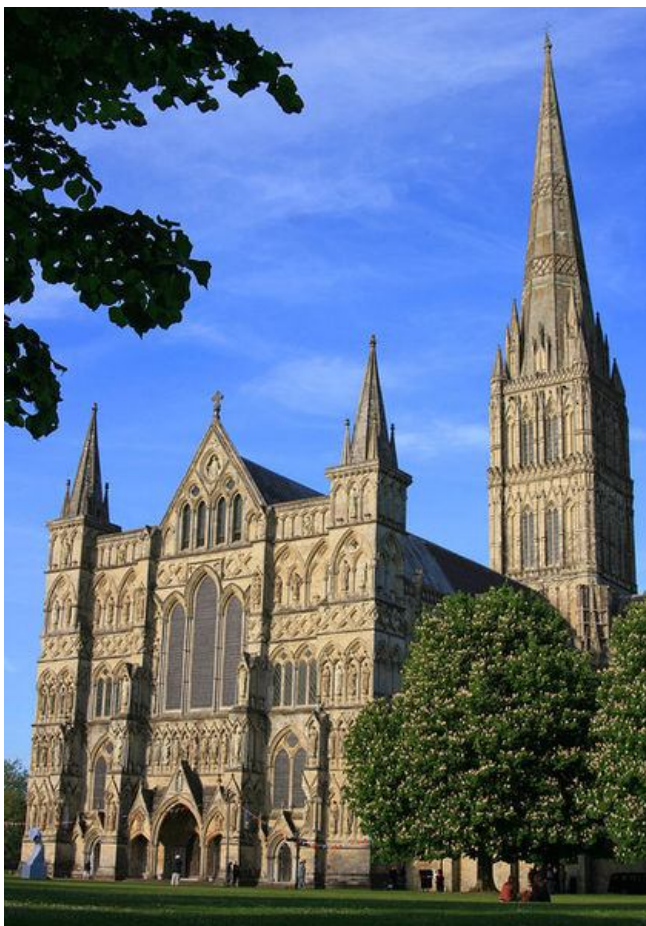
**Several horizontal fox and geese games drawing on a tomb of the XII century, miscalled “Lord Stourton” in the Cathedral cloister of Salisbury.**



There are several of these games on the 12th century tomb at Salisbury, Lord Stourton's, so called, and which is now in the nave of the cathedral.

The structure originally stood at the east end of the cathedral but was thrown out during the Reformation and used as tomb for Lord Stourton who was hung, March 6, 1556, in the market-place at Salisbury, for the murder of Mr. Hartgill and his son.

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<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Geograph-3505928-by-Hugh-Chevallier.jpg>

Photo: Hugh Chevallier

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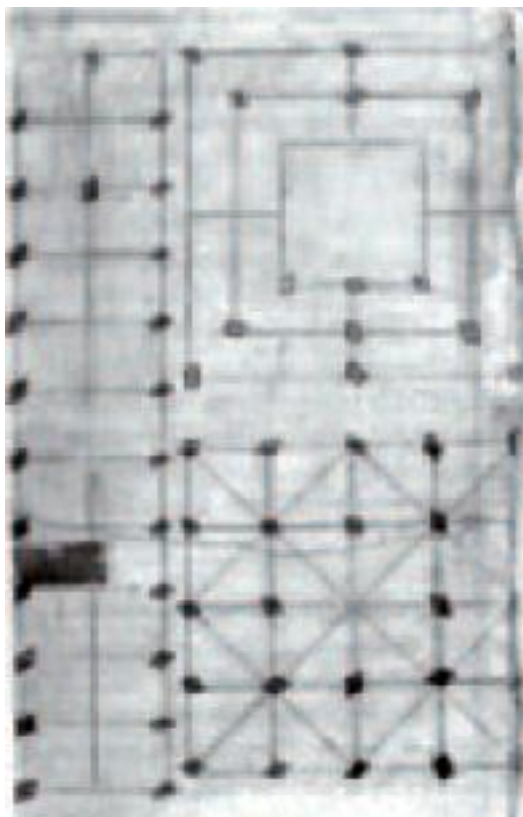
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**County of Dorshetshire**

**The History of Alquerque-12. Remaining countries.  
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**An Alquerque-12 drawing with the initial position of 12 playing pieces from both parts appears in an English manuscript coming from Cerne Abbey, Dorsetshire.**



**Alquerque-12 drawing in a manuscript of the Benedictine Cerne Monastery<sup>109</sup>.**

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<sup>109</sup> Photo: with thanks to the Draughts Magazine “Het Damspel”, 2010, p. 34



## The History of Alquerque-12. Remaining countries. Volume II.

There exists a manuscript between 1250 – 1300 from the Benedictine Cerne Monastery at Abbey (Dorsetshire) in



United Kingdom<sup>110</sup>. In this manuscript we see the games: Daldos, Alquerque-9, Alquerque-12 and Chess. This board can be showed thanks to the artikel of alquerque by the Dutch Draughts historian, Wim van Mourik<sup>111</sup>. This manuscript is preserved in the Trinity College at Cambridge<sup>112</sup> (O.2.45, folio 3r). Today you can only see the ruins of this Abbey that was first established in the year 978, but all that now remains is a 15<sup>th</sup> century gatehouse and the guest house.

**Ruins of Cerne Monastery At Abbey**  
**Photo: <http://dorset-allsorts.blogspot.com>**

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<sup>110</sup> **KRUIJSWIJK, K.W.** (1966). Algehele historie en bibliografie van het damspel, pp. 47-48.

**MICHAELSEN, Peter** (2001). Daldos: An almost forgotten dice board game. In: Board Games Studies, Number 4, pp. 19-31. Citation on 27.

<sup>111</sup> **VAN MOURIK, Wim** (2010). Op zoek naar het alquerque in de oudste afbeeldingen in Europa. In: Het Damspel, pp. 34-35.

<sup>112</sup> **MICHAELSEN, Peter** (2001). An almost forgotten dice board game. In: Board Games Studies 4, p. 31.

**KRUIJSWIJK, K.W.** (1966). Algehele historie en bibliografie van het damspel, pp. 47-48.

## UNITED KINGDOM



### WALES

**The History of Alquerque-12. Remaining countries.  
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**County of Carmarthenshire**

**The History of Alquerque-12. Remaining countries.  
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**The drawing of alquerque-12 at Carmarthenshire County Museum (Abergwili) Wales.**



**Alquerque-12 at Carmarthenshire Country Museum  
Photo: Courtesy of © Peter C. Barclay**

The Carmarthenshire Country Museum has in its collection an Alquerque-12 drawing on a stone. Carmarthenshire County Museum is a museum in the old county town of Carmarthen, Carmarthenshire in Wales. Carmarthen is a community in, and the county town of, Carmarthenshire, Wales. It is sited on the River Towy 8 miles (13 km) north of its mouth at Carmarthen Bay. In 2001, the population was 14,648. Carmarthen lays claim to being the oldest town in Wales but

## **The History of Alquerque-12. Remaining countries. Volume II.**

the two settlements of Old and New Carmarthen were only united into a single borough in 1546.



**Carmarthenshire County Museum**

**Photo: Courtesy of © <http://www.carmarthenshire.gov.uk>**

Carmarthenshire County Museum is located at Abergwili, Carmarthen, SA31 2JG. It is managed by Carmarthenshire County Council. The museum is housed a building that began life as a college of priests, founded in the 1280s, which then became the palace of the Bishop of St Davids between 1542 and 1974. It was here that the New Testament and the Book of Common Prayer were first translated into the Welsh language in 1567 during the episcopate of Bishop Richard Davies. Visitors can still see the tranquil, private chapel used by the bishops.

## **CROATIA**





**The History of Alquerque-12. Remaining countries.  
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**The drawing of alquerque-12 on the Saint Blaise Church  
at Dubrovnik (Dubrovnik-Neretva).**



**Alquerque-12 on the St. Blaise Church  
Photo: Uberti Marisa, courtesy of CSTC**

There is an alquerque drawing in the Crkva sv. Vlaha (Church of St. Blaise, 1715, built on a previous Romanesque building), on a slab floor.

The Baroque church of St. Blaise, the patron of Dubrovnik was built on the site of an earlier Romanesque church (14th century) that survived a significant earthquake in 1667. However, it was destroyed by fire in 1706.

The Great Council in 1348 decided the construction of the San Blaise on the Plateau Communis, on the site where the current baroque church is situated, in front of the City Hall.

## **The History of Alquerque-12. Remaining countries. Volume II.**

The decision of Dubrovnik to build a new church of St. Blaise on the former site still can be read in the documents. This was the desire of the town to gain independence from the Venetian authorities, especially if one takes into account the fact that the archives of Dubrovnik Archbishop Elias Saraka laid the foundation stone of the church. The new Baroque church was built between 1706 and 1715, according to the designs of the Venetian builders Marina Gropelli.



**Saint Blaise Church**

[http://hr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Datoteka:Dubrovnik\\_DSC00127.JPG](http://hr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Datoteka:Dubrovnik_DSC00127.JPG)

Photo: Veselin Atanasov

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## **The History of Alquerque-12. Remaining countries. Volume II.**

### **The drawing of alquerque-12 in the Civic Lodge at Blato of the Korcula Island, Dubrovnik-Neretva.**



**Photo: Uberti Marisa, courtesy of CSTC**

Visitors will observe various alquerque-12 drawings on the cover slabs of the parapet and the seats of the Civic Lodge (XVIII century) at Blato of the Korcula Island<sup>113</sup>. There are eight main villages on the Korcula Island and Blato belongs to them.

Blato is one of the largest towns on the Island, 40 km away from Korcula town. It is an industrial and agricultural city situated in the middle of the island. The town is well known for its olive oil production and sword dance “Kumpanjija”.

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<sup>113</sup> **UBERTI, Marisa** (2012). The Merels board enigma. With the worldwide census of Merels boards, p. 184.

**The History of Alquerque-12. Remaining countries.  
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**Photo: Uberti Marisa, courtesy of CSTC**



**Photo: Uberti Marisa, courtesy of CSTC**



## **The History of Alquerque-12. Remaining countries. Volume II.**

The town has about 4.500 inhabitants and is situated in the middle of the island on the main island road, 40 km from Korcula. This place is a traditional agricultural place and the centre of all agricultural products of the island. Surrounded by fertile fields and rich woodland, early agricultural cultivation was flourishing here as early as Greek and Roman times. Archeological findings witnesses the existence of a settlement in Blato in the prehistoric and Illyrian times. The prehistoric inhabitant of Blato was a shepherd, hunter and fisherman. Several early Christian churches were built in Blato and its surroundings. The most significant among them is the church of St. Cosmos and Damian dating from the 6th century.



[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Panorama\\_Blato\\_n.K.07848.JPG](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Panorama_Blato_n.K.07848.JPG)

Photo: Quahadi Añtó

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## **The History of Alquerque-12. Remaining countries. Volume II.**

### **The drawing of alquerque-12 in the Civic Lodge at Korcula city of the Korcula Island, Dubrovnik-Neretva.**

Visitors will observe various alquerque-12 drawings in the Civic Lodge (XVI century) at Korcula city of the Korcula Island<sup>114</sup>. The exact place is in the Trg (Square) Antuna i Stipana Radica, close to the City Hall. On the cover slabs of the parapet



**Photo: Uberti Marisa, courtesy of CSTC**

Visitors will observe in this place seven alquerque-12 boards. We limit here ourselves to show only four of these drawings. The remaining drawings of these boards can be find on the website of Marisa Uberti:

<http://www.centro-studi-triplice-cinta.com/>

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<sup>114</sup> **UBERTI, Marisa** (2012). The Merels board enigma. With the worldwide census of Merels boards, p. 184.



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**Photo: Uberti Marisa, courtesy of CSTC**



**Photo: Uberti Marisa, courtesy of CSTC**

**The History of Alquerque-12. Remaining countries.  
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**Photo: Uberti Marisa, courtesy of CSTC**



**Photo: Uberti Marisa, courtesy of CSTC**

## **The History of Alquerque-12. Remaining countries. Volume II.**

The exact place of another Alquerque-12 drawing is on the bench against the wall, behind an altar in the Civic lodge (XVI century) in the Trg (Square) Antuna i Stipana Radica, close to the City Hall.



**Photo: Uberti Marisa, courtesy of CSTC**



**Photo: Uberti Marisa, courtesy of CSTC**

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**The drawing of alquerque-12 on the building of the Office of Tourism at Korcula city of the Korcula Island, Dubrovnik-Neretva.**

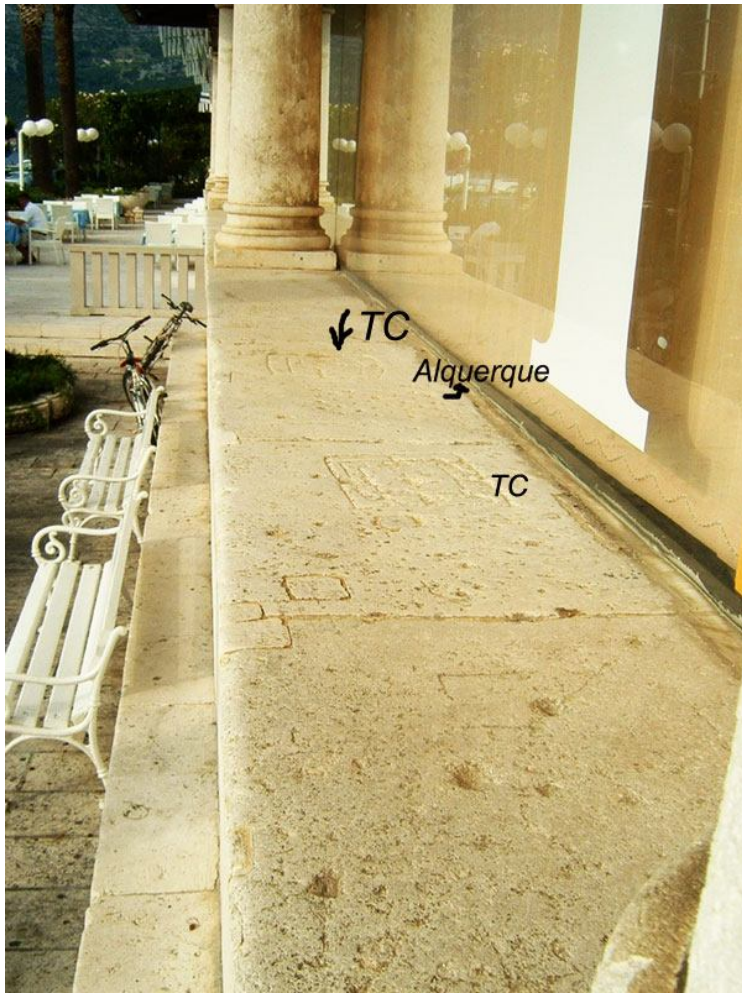


**Photo: Uberti Marisa, courtesy of CSTC**

Visitors can see an Alquerque-12 drawing on the wide windowsill outside of the building of the Office of Tourism, in the historic center. In this case, the game gives only the holes of the crosses. Furthermore, we see other game drawings.



**The History of Alquerque-12. Remaining countries.  
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**Photo: Uberti Marisa, courtesy of CSTC**

**The History of Alquerque-12. Remaining countries.  
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**The drawing of alquerque-12 in the Medieval church of Saint Peter at Korcula city of the Korcula Island, Dubrovnik-Neretva.**



**Photo: Uberti Marisa, courtesy of CSTC**

An Alquerque-12 drawing is visible on a tombstone pavement in the center of the Medieval church of Saint Peter at Korcula city of the Korcula Island. The drawing of the board is in a deplorable state.

North of the Cathedral of Saint Marco, there is the small church of St. Peter - probably the oldest surviving church in town from the 11th century in which the Renaissance portal of the master Bonino da Milano, and the wooden statues of the apostles are situated.



**The History of Alquerque-12. Remaining countries.  
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**Saint Peter's church**  
Courtesy of: <http://visitdalmatia.com/>

**The Morisco's sword dance in the Island of Korcula.**

Moreska is a romantic war dance with swords that came in the 12-13th century from the Mediterranean countries. It is assumed that the Moreska in Korcula came in the 16th century from Spain, across Southern Italy and Dubrovnik. Later, through the centuries the Morisco's dance came from the Mediterranean countries. The dance is only now looming in some parts. In Korcula, it is deeply rooted in its present form as an attractive war dance with swords. This dance is unique in the world.

## The History of Alquerque-12. Remaining countries. Volume II.



<http://www.dubrovnikcity.com/dubrovnik.htm>

The old city of Korcula is surrounded by walls, and the streets are arranged in a herringbone pattern allowing free circulation of air but protecting against strong winds. Korčula is tightly built on a promontory that guards the narrow sound between the island and the mainland. Building outside the walls was forbidden until the 18th century, and the wooden drawbridge was only replaced in 1863.

The historic places of the town include the central Romanesque-Gothic *Cathedral of St Mark* (built from 1301 to 1806), the 15th-century Franciscan monastery with a beautiful Venetian Gothic cloister, the civic council chambers, the palace of the former Venetian governors, grand 15th- and 16th-century palaces of the local merchant nobles, and the massive city fortifications.

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**The drawing of alquerque-12 in the Civic Lodge of the town Labin (Istria) of Croatia.**



**Photo: Uberti Marisa, courtesy of CSTC**

There are three alquerque-12 boards in the old town, in the central square Marshal Tito (Titov trg), on the parapet of the Civic Lodge Civic (1550) of Labin.

Labin is a town in Istria, Croatia, with a town population of 7000 inhabitants and 12.000 in the greater municipality (which also includes the small towns of Rabac and Vinež, as well as a number of smaller villages). The city developed from the site of the Roman settlement of Albona. Before and under the Roman occupation, Albona was an important commune. On a marble tablet, the Roman inscription we read that under the Emperor Marco Iulio Severo Filippo noble Caesar noble

## **The History of Alquerque-12. Remaining countries. Volume II.**

Prince made Albona a Republic. To be a republic it had to have two joined Magistrates called Duumviri and Public officers called Aediles. They took care of Public buildings and other official duties.

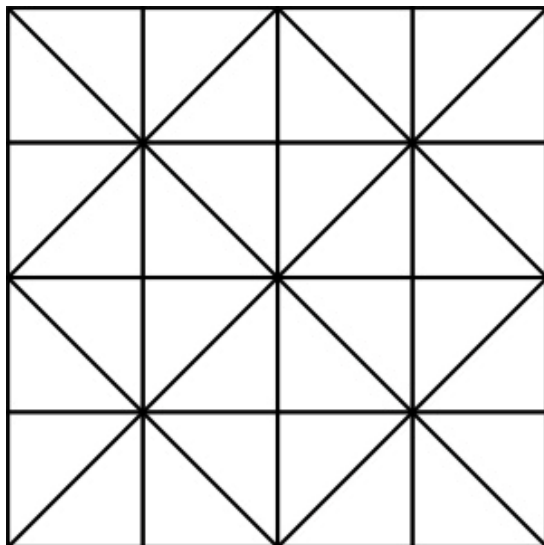
From 1295, it was under the rule of the dukes of Pazin, and from 1381, it found itself under the jurisdiction of the Patriarchate of Aquileia. From 1420 until 1797 it was ruled from Venice and after that belonged to Austria. Labin, as a Croatian-speaking town, was for a long time the centre of Croatia's largest coal mining district, with four mines operating at the height of its production.



Courtesy of: <http://istriaholiday.com/rabac/eng/povijest.asp>

## The History of Alquerque-12. Remaining countries. Volume II.

An Alquerque-12 drawing in Bakar that belongs to Primorje-Gorski Kotar.



Visitors will observe an Alquerque-12 drawing on the parapet of the square in front of the Kvarner Gulf (just off the historic center) of the town Bakar that belongs to the Primorje-Gorski Kotar<sup>115</sup>.

Bakar is a town in the Primorje-Gorski Kotar County in western Croatia. The population of the town was 8,279 according to the 2011 Croatian census, including 1,473 in the titular settlement. Ninety percent of the population declared themselves Croats by ethnicity. The largest ethnic minorities are Serbs (3%) and Bosniaks (2%). The old part of Bakar is

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<sup>115</sup> **UBERTI, Marisa** (2012). The Merels board enigma. With the worldwide census of Merels boards, pp. 185-186.

## **The History of Alquerque-12. Remaining countries. Volume II.**

situated on a hill overlooking the Bay of Bakar. "Bakar" is the Croatian and Turkish word for copper.



[http://es.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bakar#mediaviewer/Archivo:Old\\_Bakar.jpg](http://es.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bakar#mediaviewer/Archivo:Old_Bakar.jpg)

Photo: Aqwis

(Image of: PHGCOM/Wikimedia Commons/GNU Free Documentation License, Version 1.2 or any later/Creative Commons Attribution-Share Alike 3.0 Unported, 2.5 Generic, 2.0 Generic and 1.0 Generic)



**Primorje-Gorski Kotar County within Croatia**



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Volume II.**

**An Alquerque-12 drawing in the Crkva svetog Ivana  
Church of Split at Trogir of the Split-Damatia County.**



**Photo: Uberti Marisa, courtesy of CSTC**

An Alquerque-12 board drawing will be observed on the below stone edge of the church of Saint Johan The Evangelist (Crkva svetog Ivana) of Trogir that belongs to the Split-Damatia County (Dalmatia)<sup>116</sup>.

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<sup>116</sup> **UBERTI, Marisa** (2012). The Merels board enigma. With the worldwide census of Merels boards, p. 186.

## The History of Alquerque-12. Remaining countries. Volume II.



[http://es.wikipedia.org/wiki/Trogir#mediaviewer/Archivo:Trogir\\_2004b.jpg](http://es.wikipedia.org/wiki/Trogir#mediaviewer/Archivo:Trogir_2004b.jpg)

Photo: Darwinek

(Image of: PHGCOM/Wikimedia Commons/GNU Free Documentation License, Version 1.2 or any later/Creative Commons Attribution-Share Alike 3.0 Unported, 2.5 Generic, 2.0 Generic and 1.0 Generic)



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**An Alquerque-12 drawing in the Civic Lodge (XIV-XV century) of Trogir of the Split-Damatia County (Dalmatia).**



**Photo: Uberti Marisa, courtesy of CSTC**

There is an Alquerque-12 board on the outer edge of the Civic Lodge (XIV-XV century). Situated on the right of the entrance staircase the alquerque is partially covered by the balustrade.

On the square of the city, there is the town loggia from the 15th century, clock tower, and the small church of Saint Sebastian that was built in the renaissance style. This church was the protector from the plague that often ravaged the city. Trogir is a treasury of cultural and historical monuments, and beauties of the Mediterranean landscape.

## **The History of Alquerque-12. Remaining countries. Volume II.**



**Courtesy of: <http://www.trogir-touristinfo.com>**

Next to the clock tower is the town loggia (Croatian: Gradska loža). The Loggia was built in 1311, but the current one is from the 15th century. It was the half-function public object, the protection and stamping-ground and at the same time the courtrooms. If only it can tell the stories from the past centuries. This open courtroom served as a tribunal where all those who have violated the law were condemned, punished and disgraced in front of the fellow-citizens. From its stairs, the most important news were being announced on the Croatian language to the citizens.

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**An Alquerque-12 drawing in the Cathedral of Saint Lawrence at Trogir of the Split-Dalmatia County (Dalmatia).**



**Photo: Uberti Marisa, courtesy of CSTC**

Two or three Alquerque-12 drawings are found on the seats leaning against the Cathedral of Saint Lawrence, in the atrium before the entrance. We limit ourselves here to show only one drawing.

The Cathedral was built on the foundations of an early-Christian cathedral destroyed in the 12th century during the sack of the town by the Saracens in 1123. The present building was begun in 1213 and finished during the 17th century. Like the older one, it is also dedicated to St. Lawrence



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[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Trogir\\_cathedral\\_007.jpg](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Trogir_cathedral_007.jpg)

Photo: Ante Perkovic

(Image of: PHGCOM/Wikimedia Commons/GNU Free Documentation License, Version 1.2 or any later/Creative Commons Attribution-Share Alike 3.0 Unported, 2.5 Generic, 2.0 Generic and 1.0 Generic)



**The History of Alquerque-12. Remaining countries.  
Volume II.**

**The drawing of alquerque-12 on a stone of the Cathedral of Split, in the Split-Dalmata region.**



**An Alquerque-12 drawing in the Cathedral of Split**

## The History of Alquerque-12. Remaining countries. Volume II.

In one of the radiating chapels, (follow the octagonal / circular upper floor) of the Crypt of the Cathedral (formerly Diocletian's mausoleum) there are some stones. In the first one, in plain sight, there is an alquerque-12 drawing on a slab piled up<sup>117</sup>. Is it a game or a multiple sacred center?

The Cathedral of Saint Domnius, known locally as the Saint Dujam or colloquially Saint Duje, is the Catholic cathedral in Split, Croatia. The cathedral is the seat of the Archdiocese of Split-Makarska, headed by Archbishop Marin Barišić. The Cathedral of St. Duje is a complex of a church, formed from an Imperial Roman mausoleum, with a bell tower; strictly the church is dedicated to the Virgin Mary, and the bell tower to Saint Duje. Together they form the Cathedral of St. Duje.

The Cathedral of Saint Domnius, consecrated at the turn of the 7th century AD, is regarded as the oldest Catholic cathedral in the world that remains in use in its original structure, without near-complete renovation at a later date. The structure itself, built in AD 305 as the Mausoleum of Diocletian, is the oldest structure used by any Christian Cathedral, second only by a few years to the Etchmiadzin Cathedral in Armenia.

This one is also considered the oldest cathedral in the world. According to the tradition, the original church was built between 301 and 303 by Armenia's patron saint Gregory the Illuminator, following the adoption of Christianity as a state religion by King Tiridates III.

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<sup>117</sup> **UBERTI, Marisa** (2012). The Merels board enigma. With the worldwide census of Merels boards, p. 186.

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**Cathedral of Saint Domnius in Split**

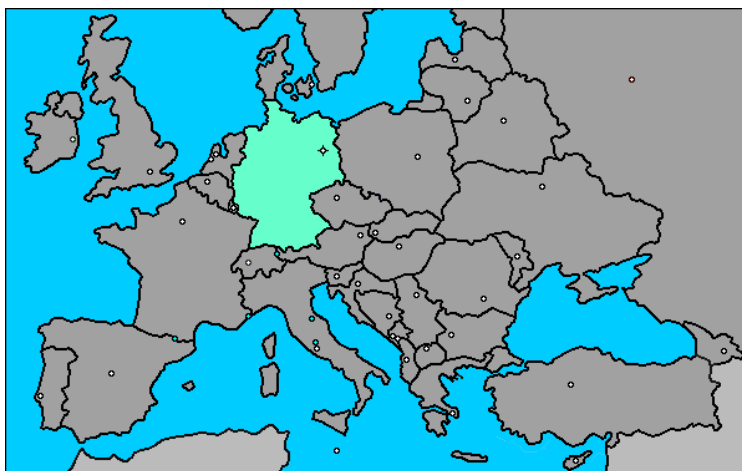
[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cathedral\\_of\\_Saint\\_Domnius](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cathedral_of_Saint_Domnius)

Photo: Beyond Silence

(Image of: PHGCOM/Wikimedia Commons/GNU Free Documentation License,  
Version 1.2 or any later/Creative Commons Attribution-Share Alike 3.0  
Unported, 2.5 Generic, 2.0 Generic and 1.0 Generic)

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## **GERMANY**



## **The History of Alquerque-12. Remaining countries. Volume II.**

### **The drawing of alquerque-12 at the cloister of Chorin in the district of Barnim in Brandenburg, Germany.**

Two ashlars with alquerque nine and twelve appear in the Abbey of Chorin. They can be seen side by side in the soffit of the arch of the Eastern cloister's corridor<sup>118</sup> built between 1255 and 1260.



**Photo: Uberti Marisa, courtesy of CSTC**

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<sup>118</sup> **ERDMANN, Wolfgang** (1994). Zisterzienser-Abtei Chorin. Geschichte, Architektur, Kult und Frömmigkeit, Fürsten-Anspruch und -Selbstdarstellung, klösterliches Wirtschaften sowie Wechselwirkungen zur mittelalterlichen Umwelt. Unter Mitarbeit von Gisela Gooß, Manfred Krause u. Gunther Nisch. Verlag Karl Robert Langewiesche Nachfolger Hans Köster Verlagsbuchhandlung KG, Königstein i. Ts. 1994 (Reihe: Die Blauen Bücher). ISBN 3-7845-0352-7. Cited by **LARRÉN IZQUIERDO, Hortensia** (2009). Juegos de alquerque y arquitectura medieval, pp. 608 – 614. In: Alfonso X El Sabio: [Exposición] Sala San Esteban, Murcia, 27 octubre 2009 – 31 january 2010 / [coordinación para el catálogo, María Teresa López de Guereño Sanz].

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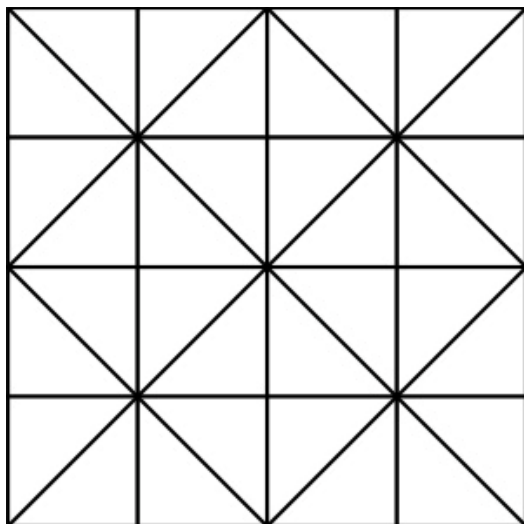


Courtesy of: <http://www.kloster-chorin.info/kloster1.htm>



## The History of Alquerque-12. Remaining countries. Volume II.

The drawing of a vertical alquerque-12 on a wall of the ruined donjon of the castle of Questenbuerg, Mansfeld-Südharz (Saxony-Anhalt).



There is a vertical alquerque-12 drawing on a wall of the ruined donjon of the Castle of Questenberg<sup>119</sup>.

Questenberg is a village and a former municipality in the Mansfeld-Südharz district, Saxony-Anhalt, Germany. Since 1 January 2010, it has been part of the Südharz municipality.

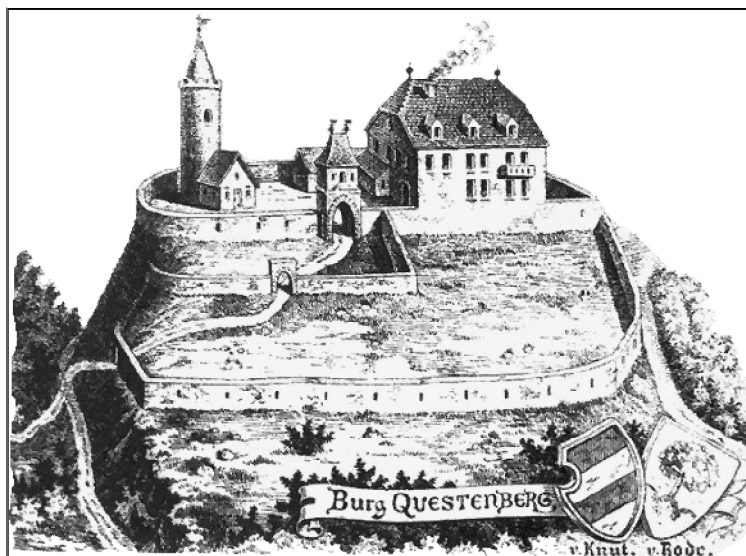
First settlement traces date from 5th and 6th centuries BC. Above the place is the castle also called Questenberg. Reminders of the castle (attachment walls and tower), on the steep mountain at the eastern periphery of the village can still be visited.

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<sup>119</sup> **UBERTI, Marisa** (2012). The Merels board enigma. With the worldwide census of Merels boards, p. 186.

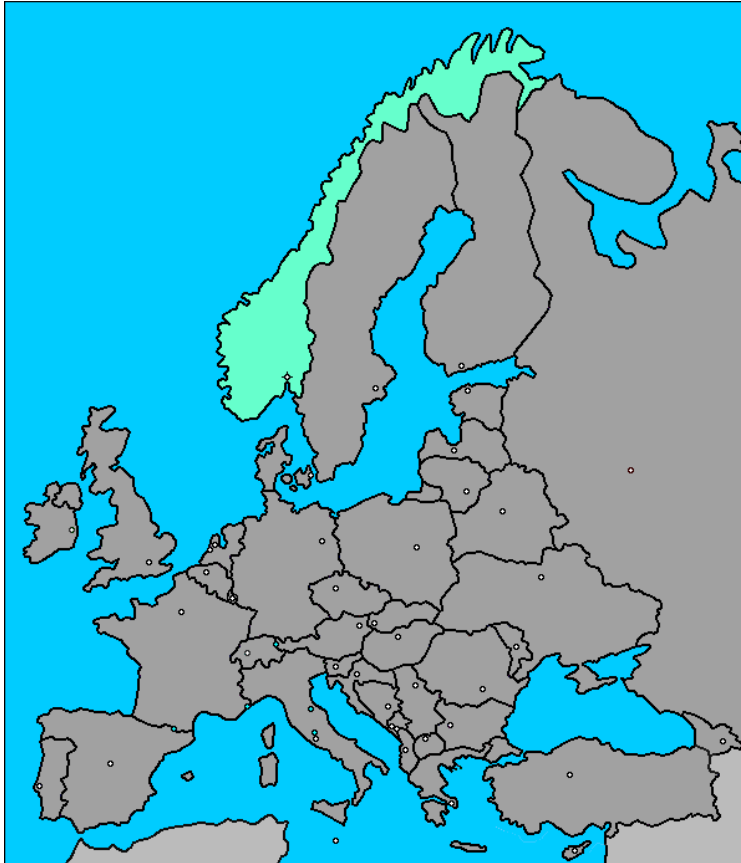
## The History of Alquerque-12. Remaining countries. Volume II.

The knight Heinrich von me Rade and his brothers received Questenberg and seven associated villages as fiefs. In 1383, the Counts of Hohenstein sell the property to Land Count Balthasar of Thuringia. The castle- and lordship continuously took the Thuringian land counts as a pledge object. From 1424 to 1430 Land Count Friedrich I. had pledged the "Castle" and Post Questenberg for 450 silver marks to Dietrich von Witzleben and his son Frederick. In 1430, the Landlords sell the possession to the Counts of Stolberg. During the Peasant War of 1525, the castle was already mentioned as being desolate.



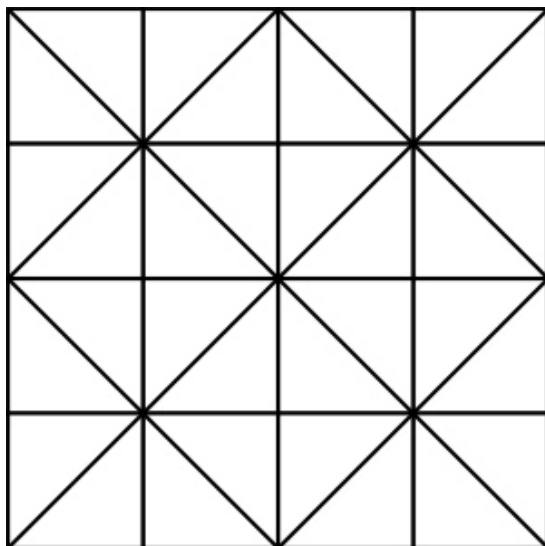
Taking into account the early date of construction of this castle, and the fact that the alquerque-12 drawing is a vertical-board this can reveal a fairly ancient age of this drawing.

## **NORWAY**



## The History of Alquerque-12. Remaining countries. Volume II.

### The drawing of alquerque-12 at Trondheim (Norway).



Thanks to the research of the Dutchman and expert of the alquerque-12 games, Wim van Mourik, we also can include in this book the country Norway.

Christopher McLees<sup>120</sup> mentions the fact that there was a discovery of an Alquerque-12 board in Trondheim, dating to the 1500s.

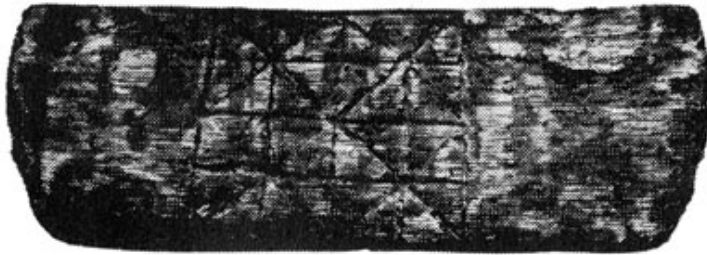
During excavations in medieval town Trondheim, archaeologists found in 1975 a lid of a wooden barrel with a cut alquerque diagram, dated of the 13th century. In 1978, the

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<sup>120</sup> **McLEES, Christopher** (1990). *Games people played: gaming pieces, boards and dice from excavations in the medieval town of Trondheim*. *Meddelelser – Fortiden I Trondheim bygrunn: Folkebibliotekstomten nr 24*. Trondheim, p. 36.

## The History of Alquerque-12. Remaining countries. Volume II.

draft was portrayed by Inga Lundström in an exhibition booklet of the Norwegian Folk Museum titled "Terningen er Kastet"<sup>121</sup>". However, the archaeologist Christopher McLees claims that the discovery was made in a 16th-century context<sup>122</sup>. Playing a game on a ton is not new. If you are ever in Stockholm, do not forget to visit the Vasa Museum. Here, visitors will find the majestic warship "Vasa", built in 1628. This ship, after about two miles of sailing, capsized and sank on August 10, 1628. On board, there were several game boards.



Courtesy of: Norsk Folkemuseum, Oslo

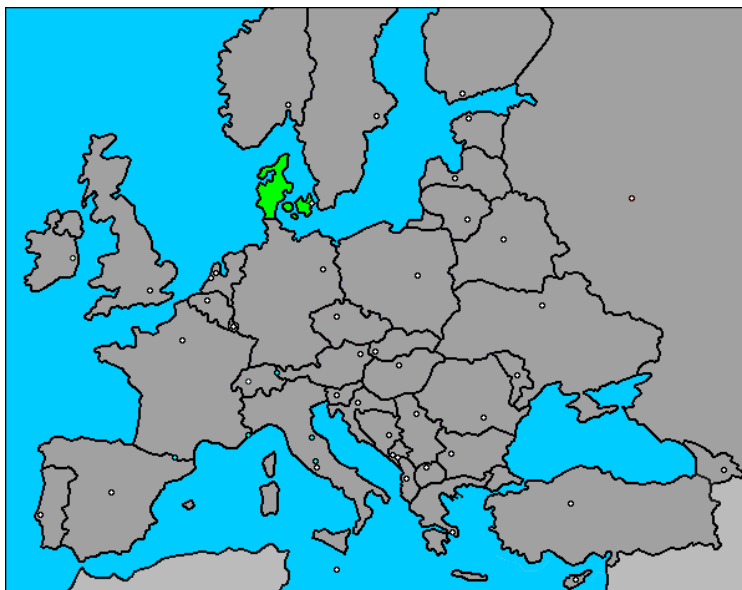
The Museum gave us the situation of the games on board with some man-sized wooden statues of sailors who play the mill game on a barrel with lid. On board of the salvaged ship, people also found a backgammon board.

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<sup>121</sup> **LUNDSTRÖM, Inga** (1978). *Terningen er kastet - en utstilling om spill og spillers historie*. Booklets of the Exhibition of Norsk Folkemuseum. Produced by: Bryggen Museum (Bergen), pp. 18-19.

<sup>122</sup> **McLEES, Christopher** (1990). *Games people played: gaming pieces, boards and dice from excavations in the medieval town of Trondheim*. *Meddelelser – Fortiden I Trondheim bygrunn: Folkebibliotekstomten nr 24*. Trondheim, p. 36.

## **DENMARK**





**The History of Alquerque-12. Remaining countries.  
Volume II.**

**The drawing of alquerque-12 on a pew seat of the Sanct Catharinae Church in Ribe (Denmark).**



**Alquerque-12 drawing in the Sanct Catharinae Church  
Photo: Courtesy of (c) Peter Michaelsen, 2010**

Thanks to the research of the Dutchman and expert of the alquerque-12 games, Wim van Mourik, we also can include in this book the country Denmark. Visitors will observe an alquerque-12 drawing in the traditional Dominican St. Catherine Church. One was used in ancient times to decorate with carvings, (misericorde) at the bottom the folding pew seats in this church. Among the carvings, we also find the alquerque-12 game.

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In this church we will find a carving alquerque-12 drawing done, together with many letters adorned, on a pew seat by a bored churchgoer or mischievous youngster.

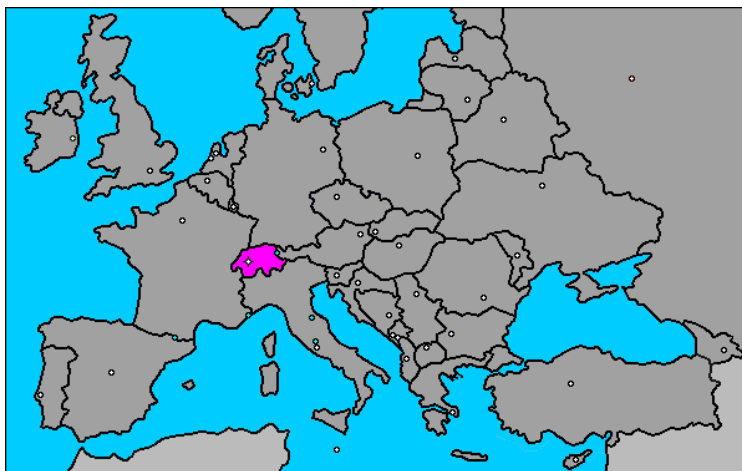


**Saint Catharinæ Church at Ribe**

St. Catharinæ Abbey and Monastery. St. Catharinæ was founded in 1228 by the mendicant friars of the Dominican order, also known in Denmark as The Black Friars. The current church dates from around 1400 and is the third church to occupy the site.

In the High Middle Ages, there were no less than 10 churches and four abbeys in Ribe, but following the Reformation in 1536 only the cathedral was allowed to remain along with the church of St. Catharinæ which continued to function as a parish church while the abbey served as an infirmary. The abbey is one of the best preserved in Denmark, and the beautiful cloister garden is open to visitors.

## **SWITZERLAND**



## **The History of Alquerque-12. Remaining countries. Volume II.**

### **The drawing of alquerque-12 found during restoring of the Tower in Hohenrain Rothen, Switzerland**

During restoring of the “Turm Rothen” of the town Hohenrain, built in about 1300, an alquerque-12 drawing was found from an excavation. Thanks to a resin molding the game of alquerque-12 the drawing could be identified as an alquerque-12 board from the 14th or 15th century.



**Alquerque-12 drawing identifiable by resin molding  
Photo: © Hans Peter Blunier**

The board in question is now in the Historial Museum of Luzern. The information and photo of this drawing was published by Wim van Mourik in a Dutch Draughts

## The History of Alquerque-12. Remaining countries. Volume II.

magazine<sup>123</sup> and thanks to him we also have a bibliographical reference<sup>124</sup>. One thing is now clear to us. So far we know this place is the only one in whole Switzerland that had an Alquerque-12 drawing.



<http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Hohenrain-Turm.jpg>

Photo: Roland Zumbuehl

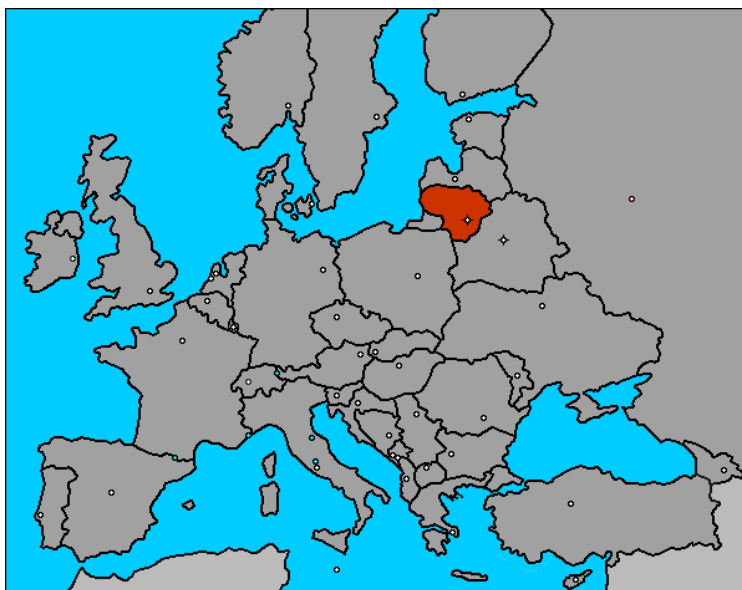
(Image of: PHGCOM/Wikimedia Commons/GNU Free Documentation License, Version 1.2 or any later/Creative Commons Attribution-Share Alike 3.0 Unported, 2.5 Generic, 2.0 Generic and 1.0 Generic)

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<sup>123</sup> **VAN MOURIK, Wim** (2010). Op zoek naar het alquerque in de oudste afbeeldingen in Europa. In: Het Damspel, pp. 34-35.

<sup>124</sup> **PRIKLER, Harald** (1990). Die Ritter. Katalog der Burgenländischen Landesausstellung 1990 auf der Burg Güssing vom 4. Mai bis 28. Oktober 1990. In: Burgenländische Forschungen, Sonderband 8.

## **LITHUANIA**





**The History of Alquerque-12. Remaining countries.  
Volume II.**

**An Alquerque-12 drawing on a wooden lid of a barrel in the Lower Castle of Vilnius.**



**The Alquerque-12 drawing on a lid of a barrel<sup>125</sup>**

Archaeologists discovered an Alquerque-12 drawing on a wooden lid of a barrel in the Lower Castle of Vilnius. The Alquerque-12 drawing was found during archaeological excavations of the Low Castle of Vilnius. On the other hand, the excavations have brought to light different materials between the fourteenth and the seventeenth century, including some game pieces. These materials give us an idea of the kind of entertainment people had those times on the court. Thanks

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<sup>125</sup> <http://v1.valdovurumai.lt>

## **The History of Alquerque-12. Remaining countries. Volume II.**

to the Dutchman Wim van Mourik this drawing could be added to the existing ones in the collection.

From the beginning of the 14th century, in the place of the future palace, there was already a brick castle with fortified brick walls and towers as well as other buildings along the walls and in the central courtyard. This small fortified lower castle was located inside the large complex of the Lower Castle, which was also fortified later by brick walls and towers. Over time the fortification walls and towers of the small lower castle were torn down and replaced by new wings of the grand ducal palace.

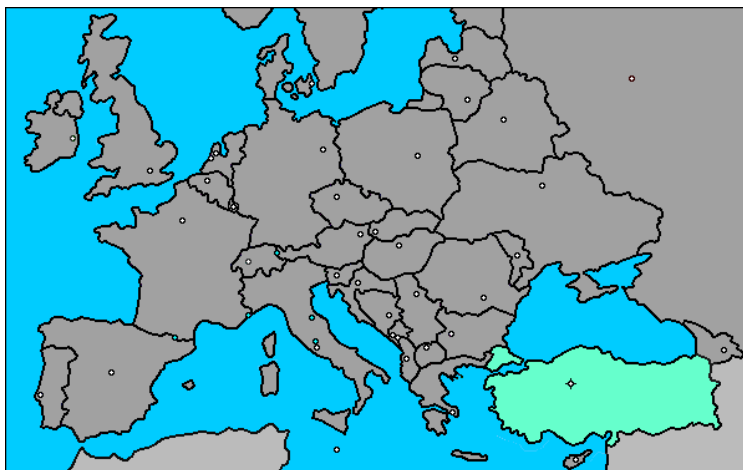


[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Zamek\\_Dolny\\_w\\_Wilnie.jpg](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Zamek_Dolny_w_Wilnie.jpg)

Photo: Poznaniak

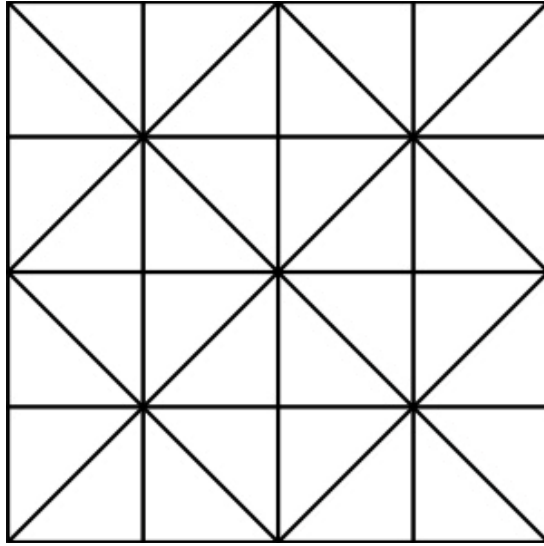
(Image of: PHGCOM/Wikimedia Commons/GNU Free Documentation License, Version 1.2 or any later/Creative Commons Attribution-Share Alike 3.0 Unported, 2.5 Generic, 2.0 Generic and 1.0 Generic)

## **TURKEY**



**The History of Alquerque-12. Remaining countries.  
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**The drawing of an Alquerque-12 on a stone of the Basilica of Saint John in Ephesus that belongs to Lydia.**



The drawing on a stone of the Basilica of Saint John in Ephesus seems to be the oldest one in the world of the Alquerque-12 game, according to an expert in Roman Games.

The Basilica of St. John was a basilica in Ephesus. It was constructed by Justinian I in the 6th century. It stands over the believed burial site of John the Apostle. It was modeled after the now lost Church of the Holy Apostles in Constantinople. The basilica is on the slopes of Ayasoluk Hill just below the fortress near the center of Selçuk, İzmir Province, Turkey and about 3.5 km (2.2 mi) from Ephesus.

## **The History of Alquerque-12. Remaining countries. Volume II.**



**Courtesy of: Matt Long of [www.landlopers.com](http://www.landlopers.com)**

The church is on the slopes of Ayasoluk Hill near the center of Selçuk (the town next to Ephesus), just below the fortress.

St John is believed to have spent the last years of his life in Ephesus writing his version of the Gospel. Emperor Justinian (527-565 AD) believed that a tomb dating from the 300s was John's, so he built a great church above it in the 500s.

The basilica was converted into a mosque in the 14th century and later destroyed by invading Mongol armies. A massive earthquake later in the same century was the final ending for the once massive structure. Today the Turkish government has ongoing excavations at the site and allows access to tourists for a nominal fee.

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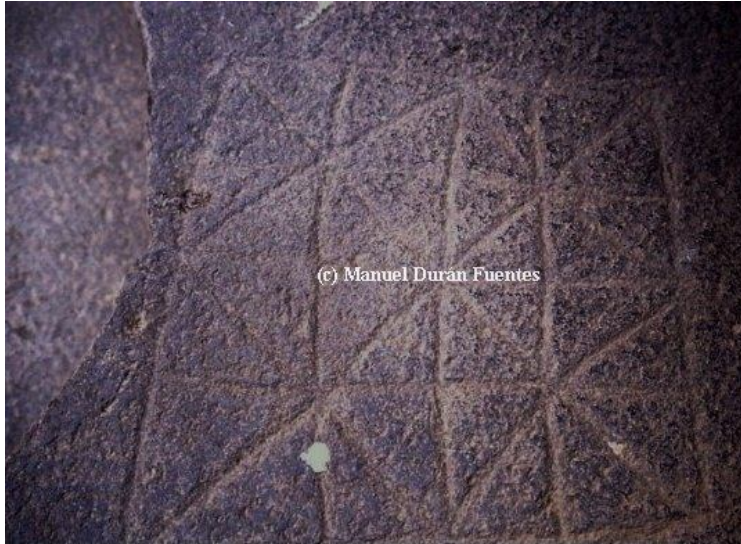
# SYRIA





**The History of Alquerque-12. Remaining countries.  
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**The drawing of an Alquerque-12 on a stone of the Basilica of Saint John in Ephesus that belongs to Lydia.**



**An Alquerque-12 drawing in the Bosra Theatre  
Courtesy of: Manuel Durán Fuentes**

In the Roman Theatre, on the walls and the steps, there are engraved numerous game boards. An Alquerque-12 drawing to those game boards belongs.

Bosra is an extremely ancient city mentioned in lists of Tutmose III and Akhenaten in the fourteenth century BC. The first Nabataean city in the 2nd century BC, it bore the name Buhora and then Bustra during Hellenistic period. Later the Romans took an active interest in the city, and at the time of Emperor Trajan it was made the capital of the Province of Arabia (in 106 BC) and was called Neatrajana Bustra.

## **The History of Alquerque-12. Remaining countries. Volume II.**

The city flourished when became a crossroads on the caravan routes and the official seat and residence of the Imperial Legate. After the decline of the Roman Empire, Bosra played a significant role in the history of early Christianity. It was also linked to the rise of Islam, when a Nestorian monk called Bahira met the young Mohammad (pbuh) when his caravan stopped at Bosra, and predicted his prophetic vocation and the faith he was going to initiate.

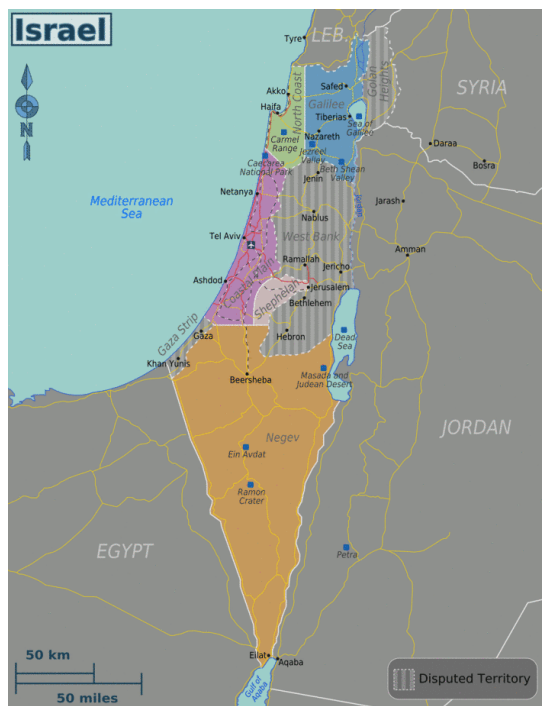


**The Theater of the ancient city Bosra  
Courtesy of: Ibrahim Younes**

Mr. Ibrahim Younes is one of the guides of the Bosra Theater. Here, I copy his message for that: “If anyone want to go there, I do make trips for free, all what you have to do is to pay for your food, or anything you want to buy. Send me an email if you want to come to Syria this summer:  
[ibrahimyounes@yahoo.com](mailto:ibrahimyounes@yahoo.com)

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Volume II.

ISRAEL



## **The History of Alquerque-12. Remaining countries. Volume II.**

**The drawing of a horizontal Alquerque-12 on one of the slabs that form the floor of the Roman Catholic “Chapel of Condemnation”.**

On the long road that ascends to the place where Jesus Christ was crucified, known as “Painful Way” (“Way of sorrows” or “Way of the cross”), for this reason, a clear alquerque-12 drawing will be found on one of the slabs that form the floor of the Roman Catholic “Chapel of Condemnation”.



The chronology that can be established for this drawing would be between the Roman and the Medieval period. The Spanish Archaeologist José Manuel Hidalgo Cuñarro thinks that the design is of the Roman period.

The original church was built during the Byzantine era. It was converted into a mosque before being restored to a Catholic church in 1904.

**The History of Alquerque-12. Remaining countries.  
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**Chapel of Condemnation**  
Courtesy of: <http://www.biblewalks.com>



**The History of Alquerque-12. Remaining countries.  
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**The Painful Way**

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Jerusalem\\_Via\\_Dolorosa\\_BW\\_6.JPG](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Jerusalem_Via_Dolorosa_BW_6.JPG)

Photo: Berthold Werner

(Image of: PHGCOM/Wikimedia Commons/GNU Free Documentation License,  
Version 1.2 or any later/Creative Commons Attribution-Share Alike 3.0  
Unported, 2.5 Generic, 2.0 Generic and 1.0 Generic)



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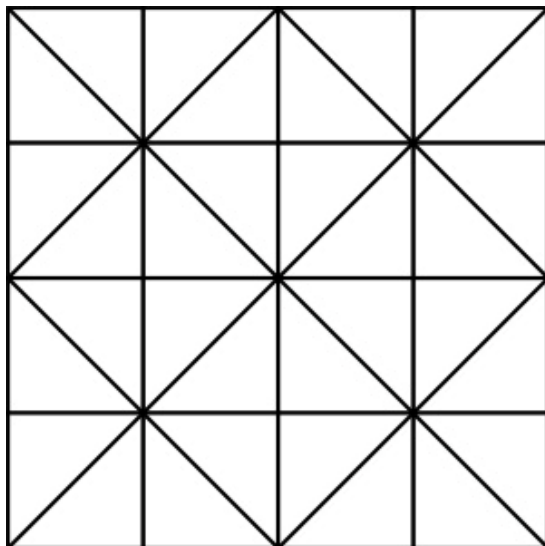


**The drawing of a horizontal Alquerque-9**  
<http://www.gesustorico.it/htm/archeologia/litostrato.asp>

Visitors can observe a drawing of a horizontal Alquerque-9 board in the ancient fortress Antonia. However, it was not possible to find an Alquerque-12 drawing there.

## **The History of Alquerque-12. Remaining countries. Volume II.**

### **The drawing of a horizontal Alquerque-12 on the floor slabs of the Capernaum Synagogue**



There seems to be a horizontal drawing of an Alquerque-12 on the floor slabs of the Capernaum Synagogue that belongs to the ancient city of Galilea.

The synagogue of Capernaum is located just inland from the shore with its facade facing Jerusalem. It has been difficult to date, with scholarly opinion ranging from the 2nd to 5th centuries. It stands on an elevated position, was richly decorated and was built of imported white limestone, which would have contrasted dramatically with the local black basalt of the rest of the village. All of this would have given the building great beauty and status.

## The History of Alquerque-12. Remaining countries. Volume II.



**Capernaum Synagogue**

Courtesy of: <http://www.stockphotosforfree.com>

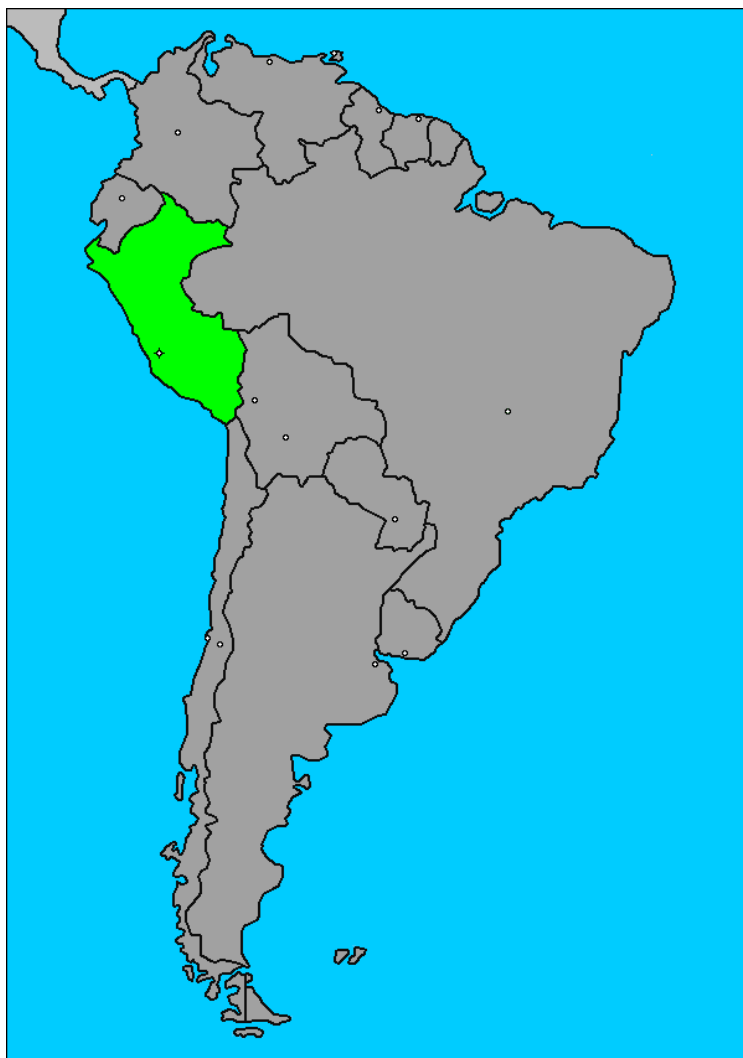
Such as indicated by the expert Marisa Uberti<sup>126</sup>: «In Cafarnao, on the shores of the lake Tiberias, numerous “gaming-tables have been found on a threshold stone of the atrium of the Synagogue: a Merels Board without diagonals and one with diagonals and a central hole; the description of the model of other two lacks; then, there are two little merels and a square with diagonals. Other circular engravings, comprised an alquerque and various reticules, are engraved on the floor slabs both of the synagogue and the *scriptorium*».

However, despite this fact, we believe that more research is needed before being able to state definitively that there was indeed an alquerque-12 drawing in this place.

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<sup>126</sup> **UBERTI, Marisa** (2012). The Merels board enigma. With the worldwide census of Merels boards, p. 186.

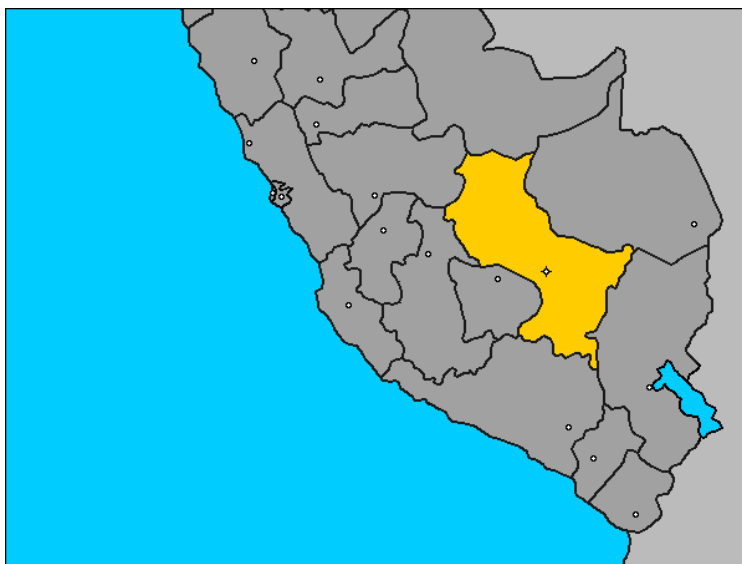
## **SOUTH AMERICA: PERU**



**24 DEPARTMENTS OF PERU**



## **DEPARTMENT OF CUZCO**





## **The History of Alquerque-12. Remaining countries. Volume II.**

A word of special thanks we should like to give to Dr. Rainer Hostnig.



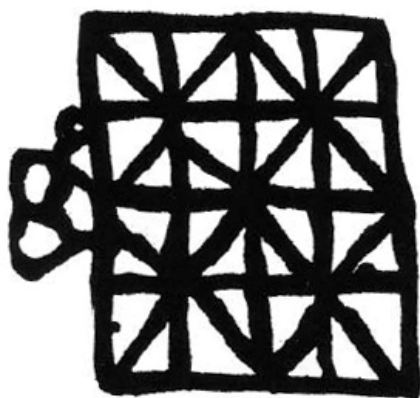
He is editor and author of several books on ethnobotany, Mayan history and oral literature, as well as the National Shrine Ampay in Apurimac / Peru. He made early research and publications of articles on rock art in the department of Apurimac in the 80s and more detailed studies on cave art in the Southeast of Peru since 1998.

He is a real expert on rock art and his writings are backed by international organizations, universities and experts. With regards to the alquerque-12 game, he was so kind to inform us of his experience and send us a lot of photos and more technical information. Thanks to his collaboration we are now able to treat in details the alquerque-12 game in Peru.

## **The History of Alquerque-12. Remaining countries. Volume II.**

### **The 3 drawings of an expanded alquerque-12 board with an attached triangle found at Chinchero (Department of Cuzco).**

This type of drawing was given in 1980 by J. Alcina Franch. He described it as a Taptana board with a heart-shaped triangular board with a curve line connecting to a little circle that touches the Alquerque board. This board was found by him at Chinchero, Peru near the capital Cuzco scratched on a Pre-Hispanic wall. This board has been used as an argument that Komikan or Taptana is a Pre-Hispanic or Pre-Columbian indigenous game of South America.



**Expanded Alquerque-12 drawing near the church at Chinchero  
J. Alcina Franch 1980**

Chinchero is a small Andean Indian village located high up on the windswept plains of Anta at 3762m about 30km from Cusco. There are beautiful views overlooking the Sacred Valley of the Incas, with the Cordillera Vilcabamba and the snow-capped peak of Salkantay dominating the western horizon. Chinchero is believed to be the mythical birthplace of

## **The History of Alquerque-12. Remaining countries. Volume II.**

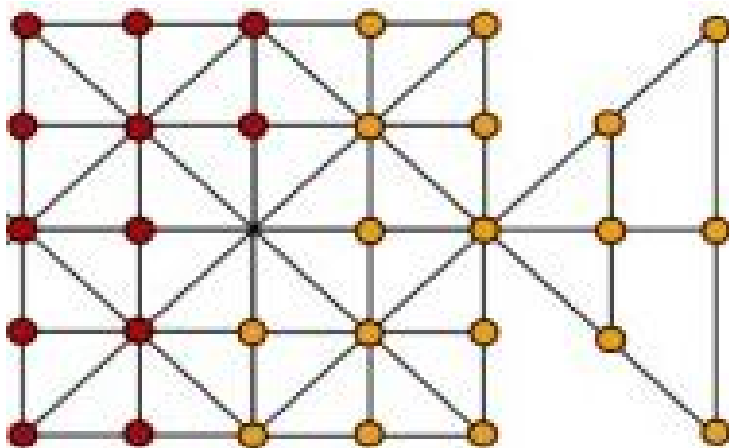
the rainbow. Its major claim to tourism is its colourful Sunday market which is much less tourist-orientated than the market at Pisac. The village mainly comprises mud brick (adobe) houses, and locals still go about their business in traditional dress. The village may have been an important town in Inca times. The most striking piece of this period is the massive stone wall in the main plaza which has ten trapezoidal niches. The construction of the wall and many other ruins and agricultural terraces (which are still in use) are attributed to Inca Tupac Yupanqui who perhaps used Chinchero as a kind of country resort. The current towns as Chinchero, Ollantaytambo and others, are located over ancient pre-Hispanic towns, dating from the early seventeenth century. Chinchero was just over the path that led to Machu Picchu during Inca time, and it was an important urban center that can be observed now around its church and square.



**The church of Chinchero**  
**Courtesy of: <http://www.cusco Peru.com>**

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**The drawing of an alquerque-12 board with an attached triangle in the church Zurite (Department of Cuzco).**



There is a drawing of an alquerque-12 board with an attached triangle on the steps of a stone cross to be found in the temple of Zurite<sup>127</sup>.

The Colonial Church of Saint Nicholas of Bari at Zurite, located a few meters from the channel Ramuschaka ravine, was built on an Inca Huaca whose style building is Renaissance. It has a Latin cross, with one single room and two side chapels that make the molding. The covers are constructed of stone, brick or pastry, and it has arches and columns attached to the wall. The foundation is of pulverized stones from the Inca times, and the walls are made of adobe;

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<sup>127</sup> DEL SOLAR M., César & HOSTNIG, Rainer (2006). Litograbados indígenas en la arquitectura colonial del Departamento del Cusco, Perú (1). En Rupestreweb, <http://www.rupestreweb.info/litograbados1.html>

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the brick material was strongly used more in the Renaissance for the construction of temples and their domes. Inside, the church preserves paintings and altarpieces dedicated to different saints. This temple is bound to Saint Nicholas of Bari that is his principal patron. Its religious feast is celebrated every December 6. Other monumental works that this church guards are the paintings of the "Litany of Loreto" brush strokes of the nineteenth century, from the Indian painter Antonio Vilches or Wilca.

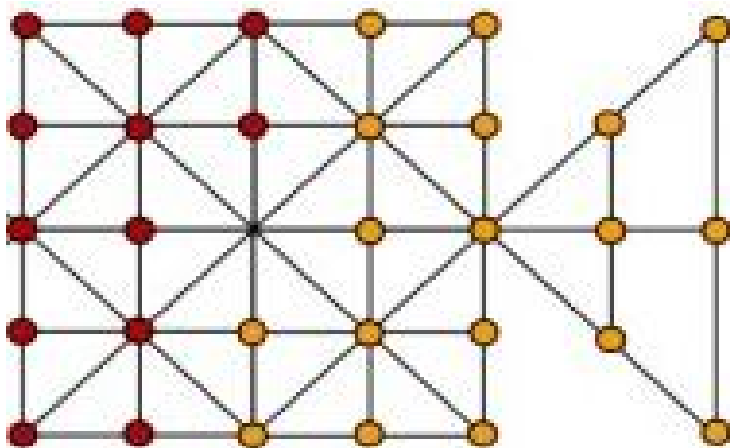


**Temple of Saint Nicholas of Bari at Zurite**  
Courtesy of: <http://tierravivahoteles.com>

The platforms of Zurita -a small town located on the plains of Anta- are the surfaces won for the largest crop in the region of Cusco. Some have a width of 100 meters and a length of 1 kilometer with retaining stone walls up to 4 feet high.

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**The drawing of an alquerque-12 board with an attached triangle in the church Caycay, Paucartambo (Department of Cuzco).**



There was a drawing of an alquerque-12 board with an attached triangle on the base of a stone cross of the temple of Caycay<sup>128</sup>, now hidden with cement. This church is a mid-sixteenth century one; it is a nave with free tower and open apsidal chapel next to the village of Caycay. Located in the province of Paucartambo, this old church has distinguished canvases, all anonymous, of the seventeenth century, such as “Virgen de la Candelaria” and “Nuestra Señora de la Inmaculada Concepción”. Furthermore, a coat embroidered with silver thread, frameworks bathed in gold leaf. All the churches and parishes of Cuzco have Moorish and Renaissance structures, being raised before the end of the

128 **DEL SOLAR M., César & HOSTNIG, Rainer** (2006). Litograbados indígenas en la arquitectura colonial del Departamento del Cusco, Perú (1). En Rupestreweb, <http://www.rupestreweb.info/litograbados1.html>



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sixteenth century. However, the earthquake of 1650 forced to make new reconstructions. The portal of the church of Caycay is linked with the Temple of Oropesa<sup>129</sup>. The Peruvian Caycay District is one of six districts of the Province of Paucartambo, located in the Department of Cusco, administered by the regional government of Cusco. The place is located 31 km from the city of Cusco. The estimate terrain elevation above sea level is 4026 metres.



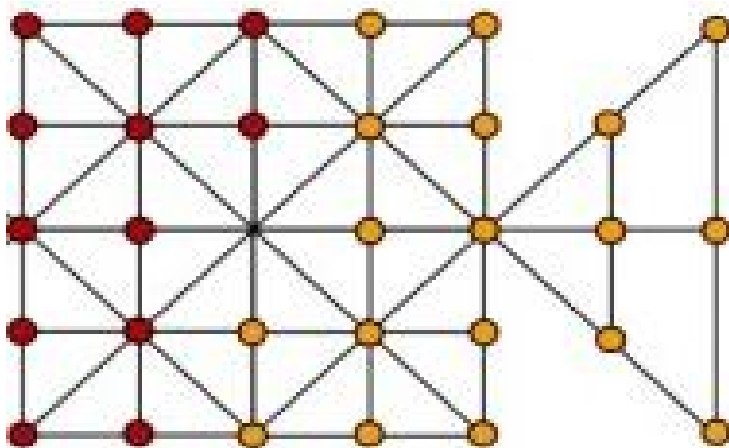
**Church of San Francisco de Asís, Caycay**  
**Courtesy of: <http://www.andina.com.pe>**

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<sup>129</sup> **BERNALES BALLESTEROS, Jorge & MORALES CHACÓN, Alberto** (1990). Estructuras mudéjares en las iglesias de Cuzco. Actas VII Jornadas de Andalucía y América. vol. I p. 19-44. En Jornadas de Andalucía y América (7ª. 1987. La Rábida). Andalucía y América. La influencia andaluza en los núcleos urbanos americanos : Actas de las VII Jornadas de Andalucía y América, Universidad de Santa Maria de la Rábida, marzo-1987 / [Edición de Bibiano Torres Ramírez].-- Sevilla : Andalucía. Junta. Consejería de Obras Públicas y Transportes, p. 36.

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**The drawing of an alquerque-12 board with an attached triangle in the church Marcaconga, (Department of Cuzco).**



There is a drawing of an alquerque-12 board with an attached triangle situated on the stone cross of the ruined colonial church of Marcaconga<sup>130</sup>.

The church has an atrium and is delimited by a perimeter fence of adobe, composed by successive openings of semicircular arc. It presents an atrium cross, constructed with adobe with archery in the late sixteenth century (1597) and amended in 1698 with the implementation of the transverse arch of brick with lime and the rebuilding of the bell tower. The temple plan is a Latin cross structure with Renaissance patterns, adobe walls, tile coverage, foundations and plinth of stone and

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<sup>130</sup> DEL SOLAR M., César & HOSTNIG, Rainer (2006). Litogrados indígenas en la arquitectura colonial del Departamento del Cusco, Perú (1). En Rupestreweb, <http://www.rupestreweb.info/litogrados1.html>

## **The History of Alquerque-12. Remaining countries. Volume II.**

old mud. It has an asymmetrical composition with a main entrance of shaped ashlar in reminiscent style of the European Renaissance, pair and knuckle structure and floors of pastry brick. The temple has a high altar built in 1750 of polychrome wood with majority use of red colour. Behind it, there are the remains of what was the first altar (altarpiece pasta) of wood with molding of beveled lines and ornaments of mannerist style. The church still retains mural painting of beveled shapes, scallops and geometric ornaments located on the wall of the apse. The altar, till now, is in a shored up stage. Other samples of mural painting are manifested in the walls of the sacristy.

Marcaconga is a populated place in the Department of Cusco (Cusco), Peru. It lies at an altitude of 4.012 meters above the sea.



**Church of Marcaconga**

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### **The drawing of an expanded alquerque-12 board with two attached alquerque-3 boards on a rock at Apachaco (Department of Cuzco)**

Walter Zanabria located in 2002 on a rock in an ancient abandoned Spanish house, totally in ruins, an alquerque-12 board with above them two alquerque-3 boards. The ruins of the house in question were in front of the colonial church of Apachaco.



**The expanded alquerque-12 game on a rock at Apacheco  
Photo: Courtesy of © Rainer Hostnig**

Zanabria called the game “line board with the lion game” (tablero rayado con el Juego de la Leonera)<sup>131</sup>.

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<sup>131</sup> **ZANABRIA, A., W.** (2002). Panorama arqueológico de Tintaya-Espinar (sociedad pastoril); Arequipa: Editorial In. Gráfica Regentus S.R. Ltda. Cited by **HOSTNIG, Rainer** (2007). Arte rupestre post-colombino en territorio kana del Cusco, Perú. 2ª parte. En Rupestreweb (<http://rupestreweb.info/postcolom.html>).

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**The church of Apachaco, Espinar, Cusco**  
**Photo: Courtesy of © [www.rupestreweb.info](http://www.rupestreweb.info)**

Apachaco is a populated place and is located in Provincia de Espinar, Cusco, Peru. The estimate terrain elevation above sea level is 3992 metres.

The tower of the colonial church of Apachaco is a very old one. The tower is of a colonial construction of about 500 years ago. The ruined colonial house was built by the Spanish Francisco Alderete Maldonado (early XVI century).

There are Indian prints in 12 carved stones on the steps of the stone cross in front of the colonial church atrium. Recently, a spacious hostel has been constructed with a view to the future touristic activities in this zone.

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### **The drawing of an expanded alquerque-12 board with an attached triangle in the tower of Yauri (Department of Cuzco).**

An expanded alquerque-12 board, in this case with an attached triangle was found at the church of Yauri<sup>132</sup>. This drawing was used to play the lion game (el juego de la Leonera), a version of the Peruan alquerque-12 game. Three stones with this game were found in the clock tower of Yauri, in the province of Espinar (Peru)<sup>133</sup>.



**The expanded alquerque-12 game in the tower of Yauri (1)  
Photo: Courtesy of © Rainer Hostnig**

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<sup>132</sup> **HOSTNIG, Rainer** (2003). Arte Rupestre del Perú. Inventario Nacional. Lima, p. 112.

<sup>133</sup> **HOSTNIG, Rainer** (2007). Arte rupestre post-colombino en territorio kana del Cusco, Perú. 2ª parte. En Repestreweb (<http://rupestreweb.info/postcolom.html>).



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**The expanded alquerque-12 game in the tower of Yauri (2)  
Photo: Courtesy of © Rainer Hostnig**



**The expanded alquerque-12 game in the tower of Yauri (3)  
Photo: Courtesy of © Rainer Hostnig**

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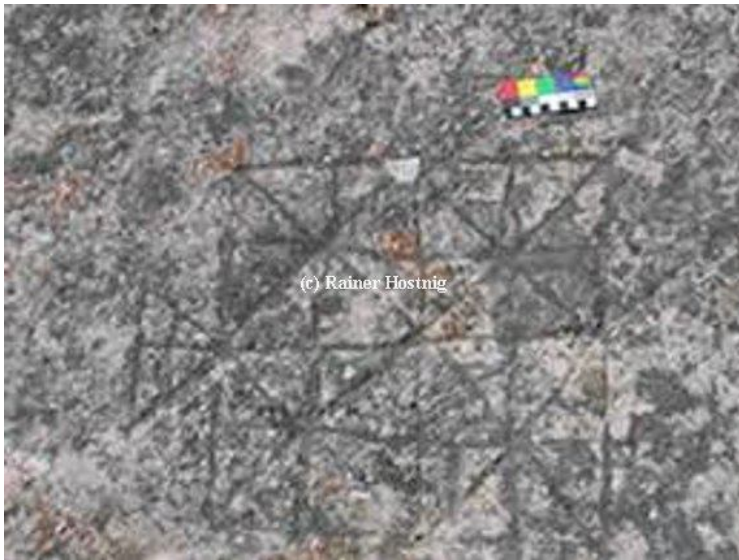
**Templo de Yauri**

**Photo: <http://espmaravilla.galeon.com/cultura.html>**

## **The History of Alquerque-12. Remaining countries. Volume II.**

**The drawing of an expanded alquerque-12 board with an attached triangle on a flat rock at Suero y Cama (Department of Cuzco).**

In Suero, the ancient inhabitants took advantage of the flat rocks to draw on them the popular Spanish game of Lion<sup>134</sup>.



**The expanded alquerque-12 game on a rock at Suero y Cama  
Photo: Courtesy of © Rainer Hostnig**

On the photo we hardly can see an identical triangle on the opposite site, being one of the few examples of the tapana drawing that we see two triangles. Such triangles are similar to those games found in Reguengos de Monsaraz, a town near

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<sup>134</sup> **HOSTNIG, Rainer** (2007). Arte rupestre post-colombino en territorio kana del Cusco, Perú. 2ª parte. En Repuestreweb (<http://rupestreweb.info/postcolom.html>).

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to Trujillas. As we know, Trujillas was the birthplace of Francisco Pizarra.



**Gran cueva de Hutu en la comunidad Suero y Cama**  
Courtesy of: © <http://www.rupestreweb.info>

Quite interesting was the personal communication provided by a guide, in this case a son of a peasant shepherd community Suero y Cama, who said that not long ago the locals used to make each year a ceremony with dance in front of the rock with face masks, using similar masks to those engraved in the rock<sup>135</sup>.

The Community of Suero y Cama is located to the West of the Province of Espinar and belongs to the District Yauri of the Cusco Region in Peru.

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<sup>135</sup> **HOSTNIG, Rainer** (2007). Arte rupestre post-colombino en una provincia de Cusco, Perú. (1). 1ª parte. En Repestreweb (<http://rupestreweb.info/postcolom.html>).

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**The drawing of an expanded alquerque-12 board with an attached triangle in the tower of the Cuso Cathedral**



**Expanded alquerque-12 drawing in the Cathedral of Cusco  
Photo: Courtesy of © Oscar Olazaval**

Oscar Olazaval del pueblo Ollantaytambo made a photo of an expanded alquerque-12 board and thanks to the intervention of Mr. Rainer Hostnig we came in the possession of the same.

The Cathedral of Santo Domingo, also known as Cusco Cathedral, is the mother church of the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Cusco. The cathedral is located on the main road of Cusco, called the Avenida de Sol. The building was completed in 1654, almost a hundred years after construction began.



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The cathedral's construction began in 1559 on the foundations of *Kiswarkancha*, the temple of the Incas. It is shaped like a Latin cross. The location of Viracocha's palace was chosen for the purpose of removing the Inca religion from Cusco, and replacing it with Spanish Catholic Christianity. Because 1559 was only 26 years after the conquistadores entered Cusco in 1533, the vast majority of the population was still of Quechua Inca descent. The Spaniards used the Incas as a labour workforce to build the cathedral.

The original designs for the 1-acre [4,000 (m2)] large construction were drawn by the Spanish architect and conquistador, Juan Miguel de Veramendi. His design of a Latin cross shape incorporated a three-aisled nave, where the roof was supported by only 14 pillars. Over the 95 years of its construction, the building work was supervised by Spanish priests and architects, until its completion in 1654.



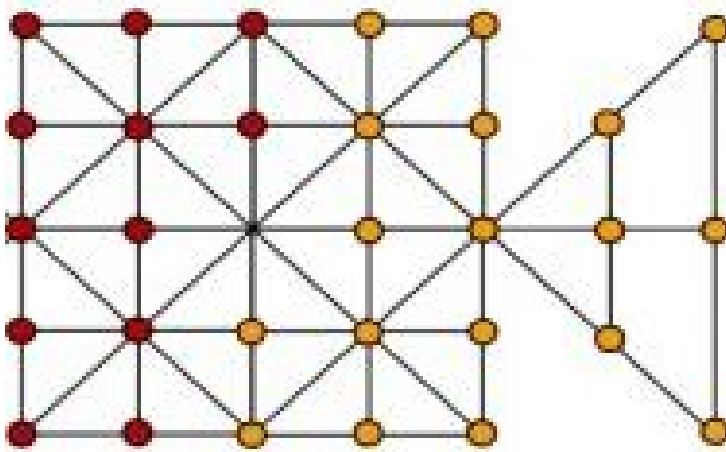
**The cathedral of Cusco**  
**Photo: Courtesy of © Marlon Dutra**



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### **The drawing of an expanded alquerque-12 board with an attached triangle in the street Almagro of Cusco**

Suprisingly located is also the prehistoric stone in the sock of the wall of the Cloister belonging to the Convent de la Merced in Almagro Street. The expanded alquerque-12 board was vertically engraved on it. The reuse of the stone for construction material is a fact and the visibility of the expanded alquerque-12 board is very bad, due to the time.



In Cusco, the church and convent were founded by Riña Sebastián de Castañeda in 1535. The plot was donated by the Marquis Francisco Pizarro with all the attributes granted to him by the conquerors right. However this small church was completely destroyed by the earthquake of 1650. Between the years 1651 and 1660 the new church and convent was built.

One of the oldest religious congregations of the city is La Merced, whose foundation dates of the conquest time. It is known that the community was related to Diego de Almagro,

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partner and rival of Pizarro, whose mortal remains rest there. Therefore, when Almagro started the expedition to Chile, he took two Mercedarians of Cusco as chaplains: Friar Antonio de Almanza and Friar Antonio de Solís.



**Convent de la Merced**  
**Courtesy of: <http://andeanhiking.com>**

It has a beautiful facade and lovely cloisters with a mural depicting the life of the Merced Order's founder. The sacristy contains a small museum of religious art, including a fantastic solid-gold monstrance swathed in precious stones.

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**The drawing of an expanded alquerque-12 board with an attached triangle in the street “Calle de las Ruinas”, in Cusco.**



**Expanded Alquerque-12 in a private house.  
Photo: Courtesy of Aqlga © Monica Paredes**

Another expanded alquerque-12 drawing could be shown thanks to the courtesy of the Aqlga and Mónica Paredes of the Project of cataloging the Historical Center of Cusco. This time it was a vertical drawing on the wall of the street of Calle Ruinas, number 432. This place is very near to the Hotel Ruinas, situated on number 472.

It is intriguing to note that precisely the JW Marriott Hotel Cusco is situated on the corner of the Calle Ruinas 432 and the street San Agustín.

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The Preferential location on the steps of the stairs on the coping of the galleries of the house suggests that it would cover a secret intention. Perhaps wanting to protect their citizens against intrusion by evil magical force of the sacred stones deliberately placed at the entrances to the inner space of the family home<sup>136</sup>.



**Hotel Ruinas (Calle Ruinas, number 472) near to the place  
Courtesy of: Anna Kudryavtseva**

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<sup>136</sup> DEL SOLAR M., César & HOSTNIG, Rainer (2006). Litograbados indígenas en la arquitectura colonial del Departamento del Cusco, Perú (1). En Rupestreweb, <http://www.rupestreweb.info/litograbados1.html>

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**The drawing of an expanded alquerque-12 board with an attached triangle at Hotel Monasterio (Department of Cuzco).**



**Photo: Courtesy of © Rainer Hostnig**

Some of these boards carry an identical triangle on the opposite side. A well preserved specimen is to be seen on a slab crowning the parapet of the gallery of the second cloister in the old Seminary of San Antonio Abad, currently occupied by the Hotel Monasterio.

Originally built in 1595, the Hotel Monasterio Belmond sits in the same location where the palace of Inca Amaru Qhala stood. Three years later, the Spaniards seized it and founded the seminary of San Antonio Abad. The earthquake of 1650 severely affected the building, and because of the restoration

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the architects added a beautiful seminary. The building became a hotel in 1965.



**Photo: Courtesy of © Rainer Hostnig**

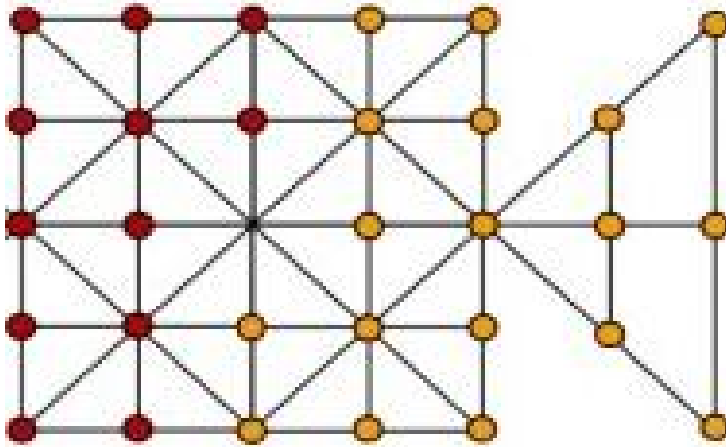


**Hotel Monasterio**



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**The drawing of an expanded alquerque-12 board with an attached triangle at an Oblitas House in Cuzco.**



Researchers found a drawing of an expanded alquerque-12 board at the Oblitas House, apparently situated in the Plazoleta Nazarenas, 221 in Cuzco<sup>137</sup>.

The name of Oblitas can be indebted to Don Ciprino Oblitas who sometime between 1672 and 1773 bought a house called Casa Arones.

Today the Plazoleta Nazarenas, 221 is occupied by the Guest House at Fallen Angel that seems to be one of the best small luxury hotels in the town of Cusco, according to the visitors. One thing becomes clear: the house was built after the

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<sup>137</sup> DEL SOLAR M., César & HOSTNIG, Rainer (2006). Litograbados indígenas en la arquitectura colonial del Departamento del Cusco, Perú (1). En Rupestreweb, <http://www.rupestreweb.info/litograbados1.html>

## **The History of Alquerque-12. Remaining countries. Volume II.**

earthquake of 1650 and consequently the alquerque drawing is not very old.

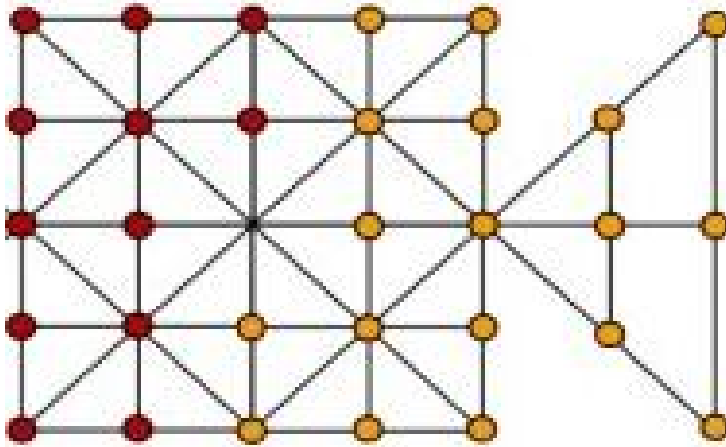


**The Guest House at Fallen Angel, Cusco**  
**Courtesy of: © <http://www.fallenangelincusco.com>**

Inspired by the concept of Fallen Angel, the location of this small luxury Guest House is within the same colonial mansion of the seventeenth century. It has only 5 rooms, but all with a distinctive design line. However, this is one of its greatest adventures because they are dedicated to the loved couples.

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**The drawing of an expanded alquerque-12 board with an attached triangle at the “Palacio del Almirante” in Cusco.**



Interesting is the history of this palace:

During the conquest of Cusco, the place was awarded to Diego de Almagro, thereafter to Hernando Machicao.

- The property passed to the Governor Juan Alvarez Maldonado and then to his son Francisco Maldonado of Anaya
- One of the daughters of the latter, Mariana Cornejo, married Admiral Don Francisco Alderete Maldonado. (precisely the noble shield of the portal of the house, belongs to this family) Captain Alderete Maldonado held important positions in the administration of the city, being governor and mayor.
- In 1643, the owner is Catalina Gutierrez de los Rios, the daughter of the first wedding of Mariana Cornejo with Diego Peralta Mejia.

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The son of this couple and homeowner of the property was Pedro Peralta de los Rios, first Earl of the “laguna de Conchacalle”.

At his death, in 1702, the house passed to his widow, Luisa Navia Salas y Valdez.



**Palacio del Almirante in Cusco**

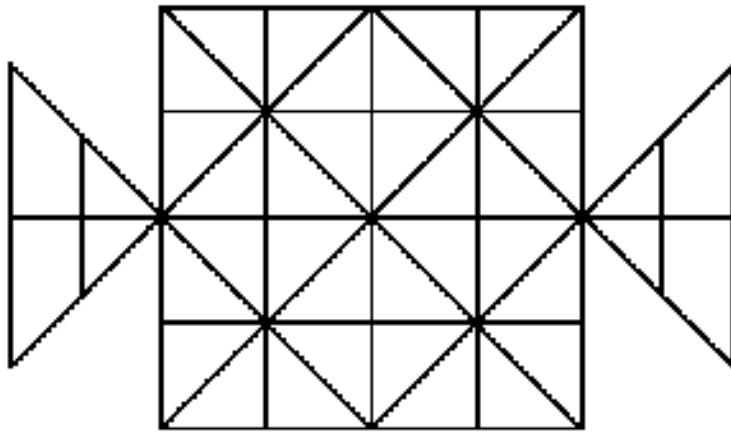
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**The horizontal alquerque-12 drawing in the Jainist Temple  
of Jaisalmer that belongs to the territory of Rajasthan**



There is a horizontal alquerque-12 on the entrance steps of the Jain temple in Jaisalmer Fort of the state Rajasthan. This game is known as a Tiger game.

Tiger games are hunt games from Asia played on Alquerque boards, of which the enlarged Alquerque boards as above is the most important variant. The number of tigers varies from one to four, and the number of goats from eleven or twelve to twenty-three or -four. The general aim is to hem in the tigers so that they cannot move, but the general arrangement of the pieces, the method of play, and the rules of capture vary from game to game.

Jaisalmer, nicknamed "The Golden city", is a town in the Indian state of Rajasthan. It is located 575 kilometres west of



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the state capital Jaipur. It is a World Heritage Site. It was once known as Jaisalmer state. The town stands on a ridge of yellowish sandstone, crowned by a fort, which contains the palace and several ornate Jain temples. Many of the houses and temples are finely sculptured. It lies in the heart of the Thar Desert (great Indian desert) and has a population of about 78,000. It is the administrative headquarters of Jaisalmer District.



[http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Entrance\\_of\\_Jain\\_Temple\\_in\\_Jaisalmer%27s\\_Fort.jpg](http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Entrance_of_Jain_Temple_in_Jaisalmer%27s_Fort.jpg)

Photo: Alabhya jaloree

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**Table of Alquierques-12 in Spain**

	<b>Province</b>	<b>Town</b>	<b>Place</b>	<b>Situation Alquerque 12</b>	<b>Others</b>
01	Badajoz	Olivenza	Castle	holes	
02	Badajoz	Olivena	Santa Maria del Castillo Church	Prolonged Lines holes	Several Drawings
03	Badajoz	Olivenza	Cavalry of Dragons	holes	
04	Badajoz	OlivenzA	Santa Maria Magdalena Church	Prolonged lines	

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**Table of Alquerques-12 in Portugal**

	<b>Province</b>	<b>Town</b>	<b>Place</b>	<b>Situation Alquerque 12</b>	<b>Others</b>
01	Minho	Freitas	Monastery San Fiz	Lines	
02	Minho	San Torcato	Abbey	Lines	
03	Minho	Guimaraes	Nossa Senhora da Oliveira	Lines (4)	
04	Tras-os- Montes e Alto Douro	Bragança	Domus Municipalis	Lines	
05	Beira Litoral	Coimbra	Cloister Sé Velha	Lines	
06	Beira Baixa	Idanha-a- nova	Espirito Santo, PenhaGarcía	Lines	
07	Estremadura	Lisboa	Castle Saint Jorge	Lines	
08	Estremadura	Lisboa	Patio Dom Fradique	Lines	
09	Alto Alentejo	Mourão		Holes	
10	Alto Alentejo	Ribeira de Valverde - Évora	Moinho Do Pinheiro	Lines	
11	Alto Alentejo	Alandroal	Hermitage Sao Pedro	Holes (4)	
12	Alto Alentejo	Alandroal	Nossa Senhora da Conceição	Holes (6)	
13	Alto Alentejo	Alandroal	Passo do Senhor	Holes	
14	Alto Alentejo	Alandroal	Fountain of six spouts	Holes (5)	

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15	Alto Alentejo	Alandroal	Chapel Sao Sebastiao	Holes (3)	
16	Alto Alentejo	Alandroal	Chapel São Antonio		
17	Alto Alentejo	Alandroal	Hermitage Bento	Holes (2)	
18	Alto Alentejo	Alandroal	Prision Juromenha	Lines	
19	Alto Alentejo	Elvas	Monastery San Francisco	Lines	
20	Alto Alentejo	Vila Viçosa	Castle	Lines	
21	Alto Alentejo	Évora	Nossa Senhora da Graça		Board with 16 squares
22	Alto Alentejo	Évora	Travessa de Sertório	Holes	
23	Alto Alentejo	Monsaraz	Rua Direita	Prolonged Lines	
24	Alto Alentejo	Monsaraz	Hall Building of Audience	Prolonged Lines	
25	Alto Alentejo	Monsaraz	Nossa Senhora de Lagoa	Prolonged Lines (2)	
26	Alto Alentejo	Monsaraz	Near the gate	Prolonged Lines	
27	Alto Alentejo	Monsaraz	Bullring Castel	Lines	
28	Alto Alentejo	Borba	Fountain	Prolonged Lines (6)	
29	Alto Alentejo	Borba	Nossa Senhora do Soveral	Prolonged Lines	
30	Alto Alentejo	Estremoz	Paços de D. Dinis	Holes	
31	Baixo	Safara	Moura	Holes	

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	Alentejo				
32	Algarve	Silves	Castle Municipal Museum	Lines	

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**Table of Alquierques-12 in Italy**

	<b>Region</b>	<b>Town</b>	<b>Place</b>	<b>Situation Alquerque 12</b>	<b>Others</b>
01	Lombardy	Colore (Bergamo)	Cima verde	Lines	
02	Lombardy	Malpaga (Bergamo)	Castle Colleoni	Lines	
03	Lombardy	Vilminore di Salve (Bergamo)	Bell Tower Of Santa Maria Assunta	Lines	
04	Lombardy	Zogno (Bergamo)	Museum of Bembana Valley	Lines	
05	Lombardy	Naquane (Brescia)	Capo di ponte – Val Camonica	Lines	
06	Lombardy	Crema (Cremona)	Catedral	Lines	
07	Lombardy	Pavia (Pavia)	Castle Visconteo	Lines	
08	Aosta Valley	Ayas St. Jacques (Aosta)	Vallone delle cime bianche	Lines	
09	Piedmont	Casale Monferrato (Alessandria)	Cathedral of Saint Evasio	Lines	
10	Piedmont	Cella Monte (Alessandria)	Church Quirico and Giuditta	Lines	
11	Piedmont	Moleto Ottiglio (Alessandria)	Church San Michele	Lines	
12	Piedmont	Ottiglio (Alessandria)	Church San	Lines	



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			Germano		
13	Piedmont	Forgnengo Campliglia Cervo (Biella)	Via Roma Number 16	Fox and geese	
14	Piedmont	Cherasco (Cunea)	Church Saint Pietro	Lines	
15	Piedmont	Quincinetto (Turin)	Alpe Torrione	Lines	
16	Piedmont	Antrona Schieranco (Verbano- Cusio-Ossola)	Pietra del merler	Lines	
17	Piedmont	Baveno (Verbano- Cusio-Ossola)	Pavement to the Mills	Lines	
18	Piedmont	Verbania Mergozzo (Verbano- Cusio-Ossola)	Via Roma number 15	Grid 2 diagonals	
19	Piedmont	Verbania Montorfano Mergozzo (Verbano- Cusio-Ossola)	Church San Giovanni Battista	Fox and geese	
20	Piedmont	Ungiasca Cossogno (Verbano- Cusio-Ossola)	Wall of the Piazza Don Pagani	Fox and geese	
21	Piedmont	Ungiasca (Verbano- Cusio-Ossola)	Aurelio Motta	Fox and geese	
22	Veneto	Padua (Padua)	Basilica of Saint Anthony	Lines	
23	Veneto	Venice (Veneto)	Post Pallace	Lines	
		Venice	Post Pallace	Fox and	

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		(Veneto)		geesee	
24	Veneto	Albisano Torri del Benaco (Verona)		Lines	
25	Emilia Romagna	Brisighella (Ravenna)	Castle of Rontana	Lines	
26	Emilia Romagna	Ferrara (Ferrara)		Lines	
27	Emilia Romagna	Fidenza Parma	Cathedral of Donnino	Grid with 2 diagonals	
28	Liguria	Genoa (Genoa)	Sanctuary Acquasanta	Prolongated Alquerque- 12	
29	Liguria	Monte Castello Rapallo (Genoa)	Castle Rapallinum	Lines	
30	Liguria	Torriglia Genoa	Fortification Mountain Brichetto	Lines	
31	Liguria	Genoa (Genoa)	Park of Acquasola	Damas	
32	Liguria	Genoa (Genoa)	Palazzo Ducale	Damas Lines	
	Liguria	Genoa (Genoa)	Palazzo Ducale	Damas Grid	
33	Liguria	Genoa (Genoa)	Cathedral of Saint Lawrence	Damas	
34	Liguria	Lunigiana (Spezia)	Museum	Half Alquerque- 12	
35	Liguria	Ortonovo Sarzana (Spezia)		Lines	
36	Tuscany	Arcidosso (Grosseto)		Lines	
37	Tuscany	Campiglia	Museum of	Lines	

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		Marittima (Livorno)	Temperino		
38	Tuscany	Castelnuevo di Garfag, Nana (Lucca)	Roccia del sole Piglionico Mountain	Lines	
39	Tuscany	Calomini (Lucca)	Hermitage of Calomini	Lines	
40	Tuscany	Lucca (Lucca)	Cathedral Duomo di San Martino	Lines	
41	Tuscany	Pianiza (Lucca)		Lines	
42	Tuscany	Puglianella Camporgiano (Lucca)		Lines	
43	Tuscany	Stazzema (Lucca)		Lines	
44	Tuscany	Colonnata (Massa- Carrara)	Churchyard	Prolongated alquerque- 12	
	Tuscany	Colonnata (Massa- Carrara)	Churchyard	Lines	
45	Tuscany	Capannaia Castelpoggio (Massa- Carrara)		Lines	
46	Tuscany	Castello Castelpoggio (Massa- Carrara)		Small?	
47	Tuscany	Calci (Pisa)	Church Santi Giovanni ed Ermolao	Lines	
48	Tuscany	Pescia (Pistoia)	Collodi Castello	Prolongated alquerque	

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	Tuscany	Pescia (Pistoia)	Collodi Castello	Lines	
	Tuscany	Pescia (Pistoia)	Collodi Castello	Lines	
	Tuscany	Pescia (Pistoia)	Collodi Castello	Lines	
49	Tuscany	Vellano (Pistoia)	Church	Lines	
	Tuscany	Vellano (Pistoia)		Lines	
50	Lazio	Fossanova (Latina)	Abbey	Lines	166
51	Lazio	Atina (Frosinone)	Cantelmo Palace	Lines	
52	Lazio	Toffia (Rieti)	Piazza Lauretana	Lines	
53	Lazio	Roma (Rieti)	Basilica of San Lorenzo	Lines	
53	Lazio	Roma (Rieti)	Basilica of the four crowned Saints	Lines	
55	Abruzzo	Atessa (Chieti)	Church of San Leucio	Lines	
56	Abruzzo	Pizzoli (L'Aquila)	Church of Saint Stephen	Lines	
57	Abruzzo	Causaria (Pescara)	Abbey of San Clemente	Lines	
58	Abruzzo	Serramonacesca (Pescara)	Abbey of San Liberatore	Lines	
59	Apulia	Barletta (Barletta- Andria-Trani)	Santo Sepolcro	Lines	
60	Apulia	Canosa (Barletta-	Church Santa	Lines	

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		Andria-Trani)	Catherine		
61	Apulia	Trani (Barletta- Andria-Trani)	Cathedral of San Nicola Pellegrino	Lines	
62	Apulia	Troia Foggia	Romanesque Cathedral	Lines	
63	Apulia	Lucce (Lecce)	Cathedral of Luce	Lines	
64	Apulia	Lecce (Lecce)	San Cesario di Lecce	Lines	
65	Sicily	Cefalù (Palermo)	Cathedral of Cefalù	Lines	
66	Sicily	Modica (Ragusa)	Church of St. Nicolò	Lines	

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**Table of Alquerque-12 in Great Britain**

	<b>Region</b>	<b>Town</b>	<b>Place</b>	<b>Situation Alquerque 12</b>	<b>Others</b>
01	Dorsetshire	Abbey	Cerne Monastery	Lines	
02		Dorset	Kingston Hull Museum	Lines	
03	East Molesey		Hampton Court	Lines	
04	Suffolk	Cavendish	St. Mary's Church	Lines	
05	Wales	Abergwili	Carmarthenshire Country	Lines	



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**Table of Alquerques-12 in Peru**

	<b>Region</b>	<b>Town</b>	<b>Place</b>	<b>Situation Alquerque 12</b>	<b>Others</b>
01	Cuzco	Chinchero		Prolonged Lines	
02	Cuzco	Zurite	Church	Prolonged Lines	
03	Cuzco	Caicay	Church	Prolonged Lines	
04	Cuzco	Apachaco	Rock	Prolonged Lines	
05	Cuzco	Yauri	Tower	Prolonged Lines	
06	Cuzco	Acomayo Marcaconga		Prolonged Lines	
07	Cuzco	Suero y Cama	Flat rock	Prolonged Lines	
08	Cuzco	Cuzco	Cathedral of Cusco	Prolonged Lines	
09	Cuzco	Cuzco	Street Almagro	Prolonged Lines	
10	Cuzco	Cuzco	Calle de las Ruinas	Prolonged Lines	
10	Cuzco	Cuzco	Hotel Monasterio	Prolonged Lines	
11	Cuzco	Cuzco	Oblitas House	Prolonged Lines	
12	Cuzco	Cuzco	Palacio del Almirante	Prolonged Lines	

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